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Lebanon

Prime Minister Karami tendered his government's resignation on 6 May in order to "save the country," Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, black smoke filled the skies of Beirut and other cities as workers burned tires and erected roadblocks during a 4-day strike called to protest the state of the economy, Beirut radio reported. Shops banks, and schools in Beirut shut down in the wake of the unrest. A statement issued by Hizballah held the government responsible for the "starvation and impoverishment of the citizens" and urged the public to show restraint during the demonstrations, according to Voice of the Oppressed.

Israel

Egypt released four Israelis jailed for espionage, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Prime Minister Shamir hailed the repatriation of David Ovitz and the al-Misrati family and said the affair would not cause "irreparable" damage to Israeli-Egyptian relations. Meanwhile, three KAKH activists were detained at Jerusalem District Court for trying to attack Palestinian notable Faysal al-Husayni, Jerusalem radio noted.

Kuwait

Commenting on the new Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders drawn up by a UN committee, the defense minister said Kuwait conceded "part of its territory to Iraq for humanitarian reasons," KUNA reported. The information minister criticized the "conciliatory" demarcation, saying it "should have been set further north," but added that Kuwait accepted the new borders.

Afghanistan

Representatives of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami party and the interim government reportedly signed a cease-fire agreement in Kabul on 6 May, according to an announcement by the acting information minister, AFP reported.

Algeria

Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir Wednesday termed rumors of an impending uprising in the capital "propaganda aimed at poisoning the atmosphere and creating confusion," Algiers TV reported.

Sudan

The government launched a "wave of arrests" following two coup attempts, London AL-MAJALLAH disclosed. A number of Democratic Unionist Party members were detained and 83 military personnel arrested, according to the paper.

India

Two unidentified gunmen opened fire on a car carrying the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires and an Egyptian diplomat, according to KUNA. Delhi radio reported that both envoys escaped unhurt and that security around the Kuwaiti Embassy has been stepped up. Meanwhile, the communications minister narrowly escaped an attack on his motorcade in Srinagar on 5 May, according to Delhi Radio. In another development, the medium-range surface-to-surface missile "Prithvi" was successfully test-fired on 5 May, Delhi TV reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Next Round of Peace Talks Slated for 20 Jul

TA0505113892 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 4 May 92 p 12

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that the sixth round of talks between Israel and the Arab side will not be convened before the Israeli elections, which are scheduled to be held at the end of June. It has been learned that the next round will be held in Rome on 20 July.

Abu-Nidal Said Seeking Residence in Iraq

TA0505123092 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 4 May 92 p 16

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] recently made a secret and quick visit to Baghdad during which he met with a number of Iraqi officials. The sources explained that this move by Abu-Nidal is part of his search for "an alternative country" to Libya in which to reside, because the Libyan authorities have asked him to leave the country "as soon as possible." The sources pointed out that Abu-Nidal tried to reside in Sudan but he "was not welcomed" by the Sudanese authorities, although they did agree to host "some elements" affiliated with his organization.

Spokeswoman 'Ashrawi Calls For Pressure on Israel

JN0405092192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 May 92 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Economic pressure may be the only catalyst which would persuade Israel to begin substantive talks with the Arabs in the on-going peace negotiations, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Sunday.

Dr. 'Ashrawi, who arrived here Saturday after the fifth round of bilateral peace talks with Israel in Washington, spoke at length about developments and expectations of the peace talks after what she termed a "successful working meeting" with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

Assessment of the bilateral negotiations by members of the Palestinian delegation and Dr. Abu-Jabir estabished that Jordan and the Palestinian delegation both felt that Israel continued to be intransigent and avoiding issues of substance.

"I don't think that without very firm steps vis-a-vis Israel by the United States and Europe, whether in the form of trade agreement, aid or sanctions, the Israelis will just continue with the status quo which serves their interest," [as published] Dr. 'Ashrawi said when asked what could bring out a more constructive Israeli attitude in the negotiations.

The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations came to the same conclusion and Dr. 'Ashrawi stressed that cooperation between the two delegations was constantly improving. "The Palestinians and the Jordanians have the closest working relationship in part because we are a joint delegation and because of all sorts of considerations in common," she said.

"We had a long meeting for coordination before the negotiations began and we agreed to common principles which everybody adhered to," Dr. 'Ashrawi added in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Israel would not bow except to very direct pressure, Dr. 'Ashrawi asserted. She insisted that "when using the carrot and stick approach, the carrot doesn't work with Israelis; they will eat all the carrots and ask for more. They will not comply otherwise."

"The Israelis," the spokeswoman asserted, "have to know that they have something to lose; something concrete and tangible otherwise if they feel they can maintain this impasse and get away with it they will."

The unwillingness of the Israelis to tackle issues of substance with their Arab negotiating partners was a way to buy time and thus build more settlements in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, according to Dr. 'Ashrawi. By creating facts on the ground, Dr. 'Ashrawi said, the outcome of the negotiations would be predetermined.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has repeatedly said that he would not withdraw from one inch of occupied territory and would not trade land for peace.

"So while the peace process is going on there is another process going on in the West Bank, which is the settlement process and the co-sponsors have a responsibility towards the peace process to pressure the Israelis to stop," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

The Palestinians as well as the other Arab delegations have expressed a sincere desire to adhere to the time schedule originally set by the co-sponsors. "There is a time frame and we insist that we adhere to the time frame; by the end of October or early November negotiations on the interim self-government and governing arrangements should be finished and the transitional phase should start and a transfer of authority should take place and the Palestinian self-government should be in place," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

Another round of talks like round five, Dr. 'Ashrawi said, will be a "waste of time."

An assessment and co-ordinating meeting among the four Arab parties involved in the bilateral talks is scheduled to take place in Amman in "several weeks" at ministerial level, Dr. 'Ashrawi confirmed.

The Palestinian delegates have received invitations to the four multilateral meetings scheduled to begin in the middle of June from the hosts and co-sponsors, Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

While the Palestinians are expected to accept the invitations, they are still studying the invitations and discussing the details and fine points related to the conference.

"We are in touch with the co-sponsors, the organisers and the host countries of the talks on refugees, water, economic development and environment," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

Palestinians from both the occupied territories and the diaspora have received invitations from the co-sponsors and host countries to the meetings on refugees and economic development.

Israelis have threatened to boycott any meetings in which diaspora Palestinians participate. Dr. 'Ashrawi told the Jordan Times that the Israelis were blowing a "lot of hot air." She added that only Israel would be hurt should it choose not to attend.

The refugee issue, Dr. 'Ashrawi confirmed, is the single most crucial issue of the multilateral talks for the Palestinians and the "crux of the problem."

"The refugee issue is not subject to compromise," she said.

"The basis of our negotiations on this issue is the repatriation of Palestinians in accordance with U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194, which states that all Palestinians have the right of return regardless of race, creed or religion," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

"It has very clear legal references," she concluded.

PLO Officials Assess Negotiations Process

'Abd-Rabbuh Says Progress Lacking

LD0305173992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh [head of the PLO Information Department] has affirmed that the bilateral talks between the Arabs and the Israelis have not achieved progress and that the Israeli side is trying to destroy the bases for the negotiations through the plan for municipal elections, which the Palestinians have rejected on the basis that it is supposed to transfer responsibility for land, water, and legislation to the Palestinian people and not transfer limited municipal responsibilities.

He added in an interview published in yesterday's edition of the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH that the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions has become very wide and that the nonintervention of the U.S. Administration in an effective and positive way to force the Israeli side to respect the talks has led them to a dead end.

He pointed out that the Palestinian policy will examine the possibility of postponing the talks until the end of the Israeli elections, after which it will be evident that the Israeli delegation has come [to the talks] to waste time and spread an unreal impression inside Israel that there is progress in the talks so that the Likud will benefit from this in its election campaign.

As for the Palestinian participation, he affirmed that the Palestinian delegation is carrying out its duties in a proper manner in accordance with the negotiations plan, and that it adheres to ending the settlements and implementing the Geneva Convention as an introduction to discussing the arrangement for transferring power.

As for the possibilities of the Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that there is a need for Palestinian participation from inside and outside [the territories]. He expressed the Palestinian leadership's hope that an Arab meeting will be convened to coordinate the position toward the work inside the multilateral negotiating committees.

Qaddumi Urges Continued Talks

LD0505010692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpt] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, yesterday [4 May] in Lisbon emphasized the need to continue the peace negotiations in order to arrive at substantial progress not only at the bilateral level but also at the multilateral level.

Qaddumi, who met with Joao de Deus Pinheiro, Portuguese foreign minister and current chairman of the EC, said that he conveyed the results of the last session of the Washington talks to his counterpart.

Qaddumi announced that his visit also seeks to develop bilateral relations between the PLO and the Portuguese presidency. He reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole representative and sole speaker in the name of all Palestinians.

He added that the refugees are part of the Palestinian question, which should be tackled with greater wisdom. [passage omitted]

PLO Officials View Central Council Meetings

JN0605090692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 May 92 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The PLO Central Council, which comprises 92 members, including 38 independents, opens its meetings in the Tunisian capital tomorrow, Thursday.

Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told AL-RA'Y that 50 members residing in Jordan will travel to Tunis this morning (Wednesday) to participate in what he described as one of the most important Palestinian meetings.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that participants in the meetings, which will last until Sunday, will evaluate the peace process,

starting with Madrid and ending with Washington. They will also discuss Palestinian participation in the multilateral working groups, ways to support the intifadah, and confederation between Jordan and Palestine.

Sources at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] told AL-RA'Y that president Yasir 'Arafat and a number of Fatah leaders met in the Tunisian capital Monday with PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu-'Ali Mustafa and a number of PFLP leaders to contain any dispute that might emerge during the PLO Central Council meeting.

Observers emphasized that the PFLP emerged more flexible from the meeting. In a joint statement with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued in occupied Palestine Tuesday, the Front called for a unified Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese position concerning participation in the multilateral talks. Before that, the PFLP had opposed Palestinian participation in the multilateral talks.

Meanwhile, DFLP officials told AL-RA'Y that 'Arafat and a number of Fatah leaders met yesterday in Tunis with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and a number of the Front's leaders.

A DFLP official described the meeting as extremely important, but he emphasized that the DFLP will insist during the PLO Central Council meetings on appointing deputies to president 'Arafat and on setting up a secretariat for the PLO Executive Committee, as decided in the PNC meeting in 1975. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Message to Palestinian Conference

LD3004130892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of message from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the Eighth Conference of the Union of Palestinian Arab Institutions; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Brother chairman of the eighth conference of the Union of Palestinian Arab Institutions, brother members of the conference, honorable guests, greetings:

On my own behalf, on behalf of the state and people of Palestine, and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, I am happy to express to you all, and through you to the Palestinian and Arab community in its totality, our warmest fraternal greetings and the sincerest of wishes for the success of your respectable conference proceedings. I would like to express to you our high appreciation for your constant [word indistinct] in your people's continuous struggle inside our occupied Palestine by consolidating our blessed intifadah and purifying it until the attainment of the national aims of our people in ending the Israeli occupation and in gaining their freedom, independence, and sovereignty in our blessed land.

I also express to you our great pride in your strong rallying around the PLO, the leader of the Palestinian national struggle and the legitimate representative of our people.

Honorable brothers, your respectable conference is convening for its eighth session today to express your solidarity with our people's blessed intifadah, emphasizing through the unity of our Palestinian people and its rallying around the PLO, despite the distance [words indistinct] the serious stage through which our Palestinian cause in passing [words indistinct] which makes [words indistinct] to work by using all possible means to develop and organize the community's social condition, be seriously interested in the affairs of teaching its offspring, organizing and protecting the youth, making available opportunities for cooperation and harmony among all the communities' groups and members, and consolidating the family and social cohesiveness of the community.

We are confident that your respectable conference will discuss these matters seriously and evaluate the pressing responsibilities which are imposed on us, as well as all the dangerous challenges which our Palestinian cause is facing at this decisive, historic turning point, and that your conference will make the appropriate recommendations to help attain the community's unity and coordinate its efforts to support the intifadah and strengthen the rallying around the PLO and our Palestinian negotiating delegation.

Dear brothers, you know that we have participated in the peace process currently under way from the premise of our firm belief in the need to achieve a just and honorable peace which guarantees for our people the recovery and the ability to practice their national rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent Palestinian state. These are rights which have been approved by international legitimacy and by its decisions.

We are also working to achieve an honorable peace which guarantees for our Arab nation its right to occupy its appropriate international position in harmony with its glorious history and with its great contribution to building the monument of human civilization, its values, and its religious and humane ideals.

Despite the great flexibility with which we have dealt with the international initiatives and efforts for the sake of starting the peace process, and with the peace process per se, the Israeli Government has met, and is still meeting, this flexibility with increased obstinacy, boastfulness, continued crimes against our struggling people, the intensification of settlement campaigns in our occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, particularly in holy Jerusalem, with the resulting confiscation of land, the violation of Islamic and Christian sanctities, and the plunder of natural resources, in addition to escalating the daily repression campaigns against our people which violate UN covenants and resolutions, and with the

procedures for building the necessary trust for the success of the peace process [as heard]. This reveals the falsehood of Israeli allegations about peace. This requires the exercise of intensive international pressures on Israel to force it to comply with the decisions of the international community and to comply with its peaceful will.

We are confident that you will make every effort in the governments of the friendly countries from which you have come, to participate in general international pressure for the sake of halting the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, stopping the confiscation of Palestinian lands, putting an end to all forms of repression and the violation of the rights of the Palestinian man, and securing international protection for our people in the occupied territories.

In conclusion, I assure you that our people will continue the march of their just struggle and their blessed intifadah until the realization of our peoples' goals of freedom, independence, sovereignty over their homeland of Palestine, and the creation of their independent state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I wish your respectable conference success in its proceedings, and together we shall go to liberated Jerusalem with God's help.

Algeria

FLN 'Ready To Cooperate' on Return of Property

LD0605002292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpt] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Political Bureau announced in a statement it issued today, in an official publication which it called "The Stance," that it was still ready to cooperate with the government to find suitable solutions regarding the government decision on returning the headquarters and property which are in the FLN's possession. It affirmed the need to have recourse to justice so as to appeal against the decision related to the return of the newspapers ECHAAB and EL MOUDJAHID and called for the annulment of this decision.

The Political Bureau pointed out that joint action between the government and the FLN leadership enabled the putting forward of the issue of the headquarters and property in the Front's possession in a comprehensive and peaceful manner. [passage omitted]

Consultative Council May Take FLN Headquarters

LD0605001792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Quoting well-informed sources, the Algerian Press Service has reported that a decision might have been made to turn Palais Zighout Youcef, the current central headquarters of the National Liberation Front [FLN] [in Algiers], into the headquarters of the newly installed National Consultative Council in the next few days in order to keep the building of the National People's Assembly for the sole use of the people's deputies who will be elected in the future.

It is worth mentioning that the government decided, at its last meeting, to take Palais Zighout Youcef back from the FLN, saying it is state property.

Higher State Council 'Strongly Denounces' Crimes

LD0505195892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] In today's session chaired by Mr Mohamed Boudiaf, the Higher State Council assessed the situation with regard to security and public order, and it noted that the recent breach of civil peace and of the tranquillity of the citizens was the result of isolated criminal acts consisting mainly of setting fire to school and university buildings and other property for public use.

The Higher State Council strongly denounces these criminal acts and reiterates its determination to see the law implemented in all its severity on all the authors of these crimes and their accomplices and instigators. The Higher State Council hails the responsible stand of the people who have denounced these criminal acts. It also praises the tireless action of the security forces in fully restoring security and public order.

The Higher State Council called on the government to prepare as soon as possible the complementary financial draft law for the year 1992 in which priority should be given to the present requirements in the fields of employment, housing, and education.

It also examined the report prepared by the working committee set up on 24 March to define the main lines on which the Patriotic Rally is to be based. This Patriotic Rally aims essentially at mobilizing the Algerians who believe in the need for a change which would constitute a break with the methods, ways, and attitudes that led the country to the crisis it is facing today. The Patriotic Rally also aims at bringing about a political current that would be the fruit of a fertile debate within the masses and would encourage the emergence of new militants and cadres. The Rally would take upon itself the ambitions of the young people in their search for dignity and their struggle against marginalization and exclusion. The aim of this Patriotic Rally is also to take measures that would help guarantee a real democracy and lead to the resumption of the electoral process, in addition to the creation of the necessary effective organizations to overcome all that could obstruct the path of change. The Patriotic Rally also aims at creating a project of society that would respond to the deep aspirations of the overwhelming majority of our people.

The Higher State Council is continuing its examination of this report and takes into account the analytical observations made and the proposals which enrich it. It will also embark on the implementation of the contents of this project before the end of this month.

Boudiaf Calls For Unity of 'All Sincere Citizens'

LD0305081492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The seminar on public administration at the national higher school for administration and management in Bouzarea opened this morning under the high patronage of the head of the government. The seminar is considering the issue of the responsibilities and the prerogatives of the administration, in light of the institutional changes in the country. In his opening speech, Higher State Council President Mohamed Boudiaf called for the cleaning up of the administration and the eradication of practices such as corruption, nepotism, intervention and bureaucracy.

Mohamed Boudiaf also spoke about general politics. Here is a report by Abdelghani Toualbi:

[Begin recording] [Toualbi] Yes, one must say from the outset that the press present this morning at Bouzarea did not expect to see Mr. Boudiaf, because Prime Minister Ghozali was the only one expected to attend the inaugural ceremony of this seminar. Mr. Boudiaf stressed from the outset in his speech the importance of public administration in a state of law, in a modern well-run state. For Mr. Boudiaf, the administration is the backbone of the state; as such, it contributes to economic

development and to the implementation of government directives to improve the operation of society. Mr. Boudiaf proposed the installation of an independent, competent commission to clean up the administration.

Mr. Boudiaf took advantage of the opportunity to call upon all sincere citizens to rejoin the patriotic gathering which he intends to set up to get the country out of the crisis. In this context, I propose that you listen to this extract from Mr. Boudiaf's opening remarks:

[Boudiaf, in Arabic] Some people are talking about one party, others say the government intends to set up its own party. No, this is not the intent. Today, the country's problems are numerous, varied and complicated. We want a framework to develop among the Algerian people, among sincere people, trade unionists and others, who work and cooperate with the state, to solve problems at all levels. This is our intention, because if we cast a general look in Algeria, we can see a large majority which did not vote and which has remained removed from the political arena because it is awaiting a methodology from us and a clarification of our policy. This majority is watching. In the past, we could see elections in which a large majority did not take part because it did not see the right way.

As regards the rest, those called the political class, they are divided into two parts. The first part consists of a group who want to deport the perpetrators of disturbances, discarding anarchy and the people who caused the situation we all know. I sincerely think that it will be to the future benefit of the country to deport these people who were looking for anarchy and civil war. So, these people must be identified and brought to light. More solutions for the country have yet to appear. These people, including trade unionists and others, must meet together.

There is another group, politicians, opposing this theory. They do not agree about the current situation, i.e. it is not legitimate and so on. They regret...[changes thought] some people are calling for dialogue. Who with? With someone who does not agree with you even in theory?

Our wish is that the real majority meet in this national gathering to seek a dialogue with authorities to find beneficial solutions and get the country out of the crisis it is in. [end recording]

[Text] That was the opening speech. At the end of his appearance we were able to ask Mr. Boudiaf for his thoughts about this passage concerning the Patriotic Rally. Here is his answer, this time in French:

[Begin recording] [Boudiaf] I say this: All those who agree with our analysis that an electoral process which had become [word indistinct] for Algeria has been slowed down, all these people should see themselves as people are here to talk about their political plans and not the division of power. All these people are Algerians. They have as much right as anyone else to discuss and present their problems. I am [word indistinct] above all to help Algeria's problems sort themselves out.

[Correspondent] And that includes the opposition?

[Boudiaf] The opposition. What do we mean by the opposition today? When we say opposition, that is what we are ... [changes thought] if they do not agree with this process, they have nothing to do with us. If they agree, then they are not the opposition, so let us make it clear. Which opposition? If people do not agree with our understanding of the problems, we will have nothing to do with them. Let them unblock the debate and there will be democracy which [words indistinct] but if they do agree that if the electoral process has been stopped, this was done to try to promote the democratic process on healthier foundations. But, before that, the country must return to security and to conditions that allow dialogue and discussion, because the state is respected, because it is a state of law.

If these people go against the grain we will have nothing to do with them. Absolutely nothing. We want them to come to talk, to learn the best way to get Algeria out of this crisis. That is why you must not interpret what I said. It is an opening for all those of goodwill, whoever they may be, unions, youngsters, associations, to come and take part, not in the name of parties and associations, but to take part in this democratic rally which we see as an essential element of our approach today. This is what we say, while at the same time having solutions for Algeria's problems at every level and preparing the conditions for a democracy capable of giving Algeria a legitimate, strong authority that can manage the country's problems. [end recording]

Following this intervention, it was the head of government's turn to intervene. For Mr. Ghozali, after the recent tragic events faced by the country, the public administration and the cadres safeguarded the credibility of the Algerian state before the world. They contributed significantly at the internal level to the preservation of national cohesion. This is why, Mr. Ghozali said, we must have a strong and competent administration to establish state credibility, not only in the eyes of citizens but also in the eyes of the national and foreign partners because, to attract investments, he said, the state must prove that it is capable of cultivating the economy and securing public order. It is convenient, he added, to transform our administration from an authority institution to a network of services for the public.

Mr. Ghozali wondered how to reform the public administration, how to make it become strong, competent, serene, and independent of political upheaval and partisan practices. One must admit that since the country's independence, many attempts had been made to reform the administration, from the ephemeral ministry of public service and administrative reform to the national commission for administrative reform, which was still-born in 1989. Mr. Ghozali indicated that if we do not

want the state to disintegrate and disappear, the necessary decisions to endow this country for good with a public administration which is stable, professional, serene, and motivated socially, economically and politically must be made at last.

Reportage on Unrest, Clashes, Rumored Uprising

Police Officer Killed in Clash

LD0505124192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The clash that occurred yesterday evening between an armed group and security forces on Salah Bouakouir Street in the capital resulted in the death of two persons—one police officer and one member of the group. The security forces arrested two members of the group but the others managed to flee. The security forces discovered the group as it was hiding in a house on Salah Bouakuouir Street after they received a tip from members of the public.

Situation Termed 'Calm', 'Normal'

LD0505132792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpt] The situation throughout the country is generally calm after attempts against public utilities yesterday evening and last night. There is complete calm in the capital and life is normal. Traffic is heavy, as usual, and buses are full of passengers. Offices, educational institutions, and public utilities are working regularly and there has been no trouble at them.

Regarding security measures, we have not noticed any substantial changes; security forces are still deployed at the usual control points and no unusual reinforcements are apparent. [passage omitted]

Paris Reports Unrest in Bab el-Oued

LD0505193192 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] There has been an increase in tension again in Algeria the day after the death sentences handed down on 13 Islamists involved in the attack on a border post. [passage omitted]

New incidents are taking place at this moment in the district of Bab el-Oued. On the spot the Algerian police appear to be surrounding an armed group. We are going to take stock of events straight away with Anne Dissez, our Radio France International colleague:

[Dissez, in Algiers] Late this morning in Badjarah, the working class district which is the symbol of religious unrest, a lorry was burned, as well as two buses previously emptied of their passengers. In Bab el-Oued a shoot-out has been taking place around a mosque and also around a building in which an armed group of Islamists took refuge. Arms were seized in a taxi. [passage omitted] Today in Badjarah a small demonstration formed, and was immediately dispersed by the firing of tear gas grenades. Rumors spoke of today as the moment of a general uprising. This has been far from the case.

Security Forces Leave Bab el-Oued

LD0505194192 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpt] The day after the harsh verdict by the Ouargla military court, and while a second trial of Islamists has opened today, there is very sharp tension in the capital where shots were heard again this evening. Anne Dissez, you are speaking to us live from Algiers, this is the second clash of its kind in 24 hours. Is the firing continuing this evening?

[Dissez] The firing has stopped and we have just learned that the security forces have left the district of Bab el-Oued and the district of Climat de France. Outbreaks of firing had occurred around the Climat de France mosque and a building had been surrounded in Bab el-Oued. It is certain that, in comparison with the slogans which had been issued in a completely anonymous way through posters and leaflets distributed over the past few days, we have really not witnessed a general uprising in Algiers and we were very far from seeing that. [passage omitted]

Belkheir Says 5 May 'Rumor' Part of 'Propaganda'

LD0505201592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] In an interview with EL-MASA, Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir said there is no need to panic about 5 May, adding that this rumor [of an uprising], which has been circulating for a while, was largely part of propaganda aimed at poisoning the atmosphere and creating confusion and instability in the minds. He went on to say that the choice of 5 May to talk about possible riots can only be explained as a deliberate attempt to push citizens into a bloodbath, enabling them to later liken the event to the events of 8 May 1945 [when French forces opened fire on Algerian demonstrators in Setif].

Egypt

Security Source Clarifies Dayrut Court Incident

NC0605052792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—A responsible security source termed as baseless a report to be published by one of the newspapers tomorrow, Wednesday, 6 May, that four armed masked men attacked the Dayrut court in Asyut Governorate. The report adds that some men opened automatic-rifle and machine-gun fire on prosecution officers while the officers were interrogating extremists who took part in the recent clashes.

In a statement made tonight, the source said that what really happened was this: At 1700 the day before yesterday a force led by the Dayrut intelligence officer was trying to apprehend three people suspected of involvement in the recent violent incidents. In the area near the Dayrut court building, these suspects attempted to flee, and the officer was forced to fire a few rounds into the air to stop the suspects from fleeing. The officer succeeded in capturing two of the suspects, one of whom was carrying a pistol. The suspect did not fire the pistol, and the search is continuing for the third suspect who escaped by leaping into a nearby sluiceway.

The source added that no casualties were recorded. The sound of gunfire was heard inside the court building but neither the building itself nor those inside it were the target of an attack.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Confers With Arab Leaders on Phone

LD0505140492 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Telephone contacts took place between the brother leader of the revolution and brother Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, current Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] chairman, and with brother leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia.

During these two contacts talks revolved around the economic, political, and psychological damage caused to the AMU and the Arab nation by the implementation of the void Resolution 748, which was adopted by a false reference to Article 7 of the UN Charter.

Talks also dwelled on the need to work to cancel this resolution because of its illegality and because of the null bases from which this false resolution stemmed.

Morocco

King Receives Tariq 'Aziz, Message From Saddam

JN0405182892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, has delivered a message from his excellency to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco. The message deals with bilateral relations and developments in the Arab region.

An INA correspondent in Rabat said that Mr. 'Aziz delivered the message when King Hassan II received him in Rabat today. The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Iraq's ambassdor to Morocco. Mr. 'Aziz arrived Sunday night on a short visit to Morocco.

Filali Confers With 'Aziz

JN0505202692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Rabat, 5 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, today met with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

The two sides exchanged views on Arab and international issues of mutual concern and means to improve Arab action in a manner that serves pan-Arab issues.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived here the day before yesterday carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco.

Sudan

'Wave of Arrests' Following 2 Coup Attempts

PM0605095992 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Apr-5 May 92 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Two Coup Attempts in Sudan"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-MAJALLAH—The series of coups in Sudan is not over yet. According to the latest information two coup attempts have been prevented and some civilians and military personnel have been arrested.

Although these two attempts have been tightly shrouded in secrecy, AL-MAJALLAH has learned that there has been a wave of arrests, including some Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] figures such as former Trade Minister Mirghani 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman; Haj Madwi Muhammad Ahmad; Dr. Faruq Ahmad Adam, the Constituent Assembly member who broke away from the National Islamic Front and joined the DUP late in 1983; Constituent Assembly member Sayyid Harun; and Musa al-Husayn, the younger brother of former Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn.

The detainees have been accused of meeting at a service station owned by Haj Madwi Muhammad Ahmad in the al-Sajjanah area, south of Khartoum, and plotting to seize power. Musa al-Husayn is accused of acting as a liaison between his brother and the group.

In connection with the other coup attempt, 83 military personnel have been arrested, including Brigadier General Haydar Isma'il, Kurdufan operations commander; Colonel Muhammad Zayn of the armored corps, four majors, three captains, two lieutenants, and other officers and soldiers.

Bahrain

Afghan Interim Government Recognized

JN0305155792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1335 GMT 3 May 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 May (WAKH)—Bahrain has announced its (?full) recognition of the new interim government in Afghanistan led by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

This emerged during a Bahraini cabinet session held here today under Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. The cabinet heard a detailed report from the foreign minister on the situation in Afghanistan.

The prime minister said during the session that while it is pleased to announce its (?full) recognition of the new interim government under leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the State of Bahrain hopes that all Afghan mojahedin will unify their ranks at this decisive juncture in their country's life with a view toward strengthening security, safety, and stability for the Afghan people, and [word indistinct] sincere efforts to rebuild the country so that the Muslim Afghan people can achieve progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Officials Comment on Adoption of New Iraqi Border

Defense Minister Says Land Given Up

LD0505145692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1544 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 May (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah [name as received] has affirmed that the border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq adopted by the international committee set up for this purpose has restored Kuwait's ownership of its territory, which was subjected to repeated acts of aggression by Iraqi occupation forces between 1932 and 1973.

He said this at a news conference today which he held at the headquarters of the Kuwaiti information center in Cairo. It was attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al- Kandari, Kuwaiti ambassador to Cairo; Mr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Jay'an, permanent Kuwaiti representative to the Arab League; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hadi, information center director.

He added that Kuwait, in agreement with the international committee for border demarcations, submitted an initiative proving its good intentions by conceding part of its territory to Iraq for humanitarian reasons.

He made clear that this concession included an area bordering on the sea so that the Iraqi side will be able to use a huge commercial harbor. This is despite the fact that the border demarcation included this harbor as part of Kuwaiti territory, in addition to another area in which a hospital was built which was also apportioned in Iraq's favor for humanitarian reasons.

In reply to a question on how these concessions could help resolve problems in the Gulf region, the defense minister said that the answer lies in whether the Iraqi regime will abide by the agreements it signed, because that regime had already signed several agreements with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, and Syria and then unilaterally abrogated them.

We have heard recently that it carried out military aggression against Jordan's borders despite Jordan's support for it during its occupation of Kuwait. This clearly proves that this regime will not recognize borders until its borders extend as far as Bahrain. He added that Kuwait is now working in earnest to rebuild and rearm its army as part of a strategy which depends, first, on the sister states which signed the Damascus Declaration, and second, on the states supporting international legitimacy which helped us liberate our country.

He went on to say that the rebuilding of the Kuwaiti Army is one of the priorities of the Kuwaiti Government so that we can prove to the world that Iraq occupied only the land, not Kuwaiti minds, and that it did not break the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people. In reply to a question on the security accords signed by Kuwait, the minister said that because collective agreements take a long time to prepare we thought it would be appropriate to sign bilateral agreements with some states and then we could turn to the collective agreements which require a long time to study because they do not concern only military matters but encompass economic and political cooperation.

Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah confirmed that relations with the Arab states which supported Kuwait during the occupation are very strong and are governed by the Arab League Charter, which is a charter of cooperation and defense and which does not require bilateral agreements.

He denied that Iran had anything to do with the postponement of the Damascus Declaration. He added that Iran is a country with a border on the Gulf and that we have joint interests with it. It is possible, however, for there to be a tacit agreement between Iran and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states aimed at strengthening stability in the Gulf region and safeguarding the joint interests of the peoples of the area.

He also touched on the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners in the jails of the Iraqi regime. He said that their number is large compared to the total population of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

He affirmed that Kuwait will never foresake any person who stood alongside Kuwait and that it considers the prisoners of various nationalities to be Kuwaiti prisoners.

As for the martyrs, Kuwait has paid compensation to their families in accordance with the laws which govern this matter, and particularly to those who were martyred in defense of Kuwait and while carrying arms. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Criticizes Demarcation

LD0505135992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1224 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May, KUNA—Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub emphasized today that in view of the international agreements concluded between Iraq and Kuwait concerning the borders between them, especially the 1932 and 1963 agreements, the line of the border demarcation between Kuwait and Iraq should have been set further north, as stipulated by the aforementioned agreements, than was done by the conciliatory line defined by the committee.

He said in a statement to KUNA that Kuwait had voted against the resolution, but seeing that the resolutions of the aforementioned committee are final and compulsory, and out of Kuwait's faith in the Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy, it will abide by the contents of the resolution.

With his statement the Kuwaiti information minister clarified news reports disseminated yesterday by news agencies concerning the statement by Defense Minister Shaykh Ali al-Sabah which said that Kuwait relinquished part of its lands to Iraq for humanitarian purposes.

15 Iranians Caught Attempting To Infiltrate

PM2904155292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fifteen Iranian Infiltrators Arrested"]

[Text] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed security sources have confirmed that Kuwaiti coast guard forces succeeded yesterday morning in thwarting an infiltration attempt by 15 Iranians via Bubiyan Island.

The sources said that the infiltrators were wearing military uniforms and that they were detected by the Kuwaiti border guard forces on the morning of the same day when they noticed suspicious movements along the island's coastline. They notified the coast guard forces, which sent three patrols to the island. The infiltrators, who were hiding in trenches dug by Iraqi forces [during the Gulf war], were arrested.

The infiltrators have been referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation with a view to taking the necessary measures.

United Arab Emirates

Government Welcomes Afghan Interim Council

JN0305153592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 May (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has expressed its deep satisfaction over the coming to power in Kabul of the interim council of the Afghan mojahedin under the chairmanship of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, after a long struggle.

In a statement to the emirate's news agency, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that while the UAE welcomes the interim council's assumption of power, it trusts that the council will be able to restore peace and stability to the Islamic republic of Afghanistan and to achieve progress and prosperity for the country's Muslim people.

Republic of Yemen

Saudi Forces Said Massed on Border

JN0205120692 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 92 p 1

[By Jasim Murad]

[Text] Baghdad—An informed Yemeni personality has revealed that the Saudi regime has mobilized a large number of its ground, armored, and naval forces on the Yemeni-Saudi border.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Ahmad al-Sharbi [not further identified] said that the Saudi regime mobilized its armed forces in areas adjacent to the Red Sea and in the Haraz area during the past few weeks. He emphasized that the Saudi authorities warned British Petroleum and the French Elf Aquitaine companies, which explore for oil in Yemen, and asked them to stop their oil-exploration operations in Yemen to prevent it from benefiting from its economic resources and wealth, and to consequently weaken and control it.

A responsible Yemeni source explained that these anti-Yemen Saudi measures fall within the framework of the continuing aggressive policies of the Saudi authorities against this country. The source noted that the Saudi royal family, in agreement with the U.S. Administration, has a plan to foment tribal and party sedition in Yemen.

The source said that Yemeni Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam was the target of an assassination attempt carried out by Saudi agents. The Yemeni security authorities have also uncovered a plan which called for Saudi agents in Yemen to assassinate Yemeni nationalist officials. The source stated that 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad Nu'man, a figure known for his relations with the Saudi royal family, has recently visited Saudi Arabia and received extensive financial aid for the agent elements associated with him for the purpose of assassinating Yemeni nationalist figures.

The Yemeni source said that last week witnessed a series of battles between the Yemeni border forces and the Saudi forces mobilized on the Yemeni-Saudi border in the Haraz area. The escalation of the conspiracies indicates that Yemen is now on the list of aggression.

Saddam Speaks on Economic Embargo

JN0605122592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that those who are now besieging the Iraqis and imposing starvation on them must not sleep at night and must remain restless. Those who seek security and genuine stability, he added, must not besiege lions and impose starvation on them.

His excellency said that the hard circumstances which the Iraqi people are currently experiencing are caused by the unjust blockade, which was arranged by evil and oppressive people who violated human rights as defined by the laws of God Almighty.

His excellency emphasized that with effective patience and work these circumstances will end and be put behind us, God willing. But they will not end by waiting for the heart of this or that villain to become softer.

The president said: The one who starved the Iraqis is not Bush in the first place. George Bush is a foreigner; he did starve the Iraqis, he comes in second place after Husni Mubarak and King Fahd. Bush would not have come to Mecca and the land of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, if no one had opened the door to him. No one dares to step on the land of the prophet and the land of Mecca if no one opens the door to him. Fahd brought them, and Husni prepared for their arrival by using Egypt's moral weight in this criminal act.

Commenting on the killing, arson, and destruction currently taking place in the United States, the president said that this is similar to what happened in the chapter of treason and treachery, adding that these are some of God's continuous strikes against our enemies at a time when we continue to keep our heads up.

The president made these remarks upon receiving a delegation representing the people of Balad District in Salah al-Din Governorate yesterday.

A number of the delegation's members had earlier delivered speeches and read poems renewing loyalty to the president and expressing the love that the district people and the Iraqis have for their beloved leader.

The delegation members presented as a souvenir to the president an ancient Arabian sword and a golden bunch of grapes denoting the planting of grapevines, for which the district is famous.

The following is the text of the speech delivered by his excellency the president:

May God elevate you to further heights, and may He bless you. Balad and the population of Balad are most welcome.

The noble person appears in hard circumstances. God be praised, for the population of Balad is noble. God be praised, for Iraqis are noble. The person who performs good and proper deeds will take credit for this as long as he behaves well. God be praised, for you are at the forefront of good people whose foreheads exude pride and tell of their lofty deeds.

God be praised, for the men and population of Balad have shown their well-known nobility, not only in terms of the courage they have demonstrated in the proper context when this courage was dictated by patriotism and when patriotism required this courage, but also, and above all, in terms of the wisdom they have shown—an element which is indispensable when facing hard circumstances.

The hard circumstances currently experienced by the Iraqi people were caused by the unfair blockade arranged by evil and the unjust people who exceeded their own limits, and who before that encroached on human rights as enshrined in Almighty God's divine law.

These difficulties will vanish and go away, God willing, yet what will help them vanish is a demonstration of sufficient patience and action, rather than expecting the hearts of this or that evildoer to soften. This is because evildoers become incorrigible when they are in power, particularly at the highest echelons of power. Some people have become victims of their delusions and thus made big mistakes. The person who seeks security or stability should not confine a herd of tigers or lions and starve them. The person who imposes an embargo on Iraq and attempts to starve it will turn out to be unlucky. Besides, the person who imposes an embargo on Iraq and attempts to starve it should have sleepless nights. He should remain restless. He who seeks true security and stability should not confine lions and starve them because they will then eat him. Is it then conceivable to see a wise and levelheaded person living somewhere insisting on confining a herd of tigers or lions and starving them?

Some people seem to have lost wisdom, the wisdom which should mark the conduct of people who occupy positions of responsibility. This is because evil might sometimes be the product of hereditary. Other times it might be the product of the evil conduct which has been continuing for a long time. However, people who occupy positions of responsibility should display a reasonable degree of wisdom.

Man, as an individual, a family member, a member of a tribe, or a city dweller, might be evil. There is a difference, however, between the evil demonstrated by this evildoer and the evil produced by another evildoer, who does not even have a modicum of wisdom when the latter occupies the highest position of responsibility. This is because the evil of the latter will not be confined to certain limits, and also because the impact of his evil will not burden only a few people. Indeed, his evil and sinister position will burden a large number of people.

The divine wisdom manifests itself day after day in the conclusions that God Almighty had wanted to draw from all these developments which took place in our region.

Can we imagine that the flaw in the U.S. regime, the bad things it embodies, and the nonrespect for the principles which they claim to uphold would have been exposed in such a manner had not the issue of Iraq been portrayed in the manner you all know about?

Dealings with the United States used to take place on the surface. One learned about the United States through the films it exports to Third World countries, or to the entire world, through its radio stations which spit venom and disseminate its propaganda, or through what is being reported about it, at least as far as appearances are concerned. The essence of its social and political system, in terms of its negative aspects and loopholes, was not known before the issue of Iraq. I would not like to just say the issue of Iraq, because all of you know that it is the issue of all the Arabs and the issue of an entire nation which continues to be treated unfairly to this very day.

Had the issue of Iraq or the issue of the nation not been portrayed in such a manner, would the flaw that has surfaced in the United States have happened, leading to the dropping of the mask from this deceptive glamor and the baring of the teeth from behind the mask in the United States itself and against the U.S. people themselves? This is what you are witnessing now.

One of the chapters of the aggression against Iraq consisted of the chapter of treason which they coordinated and the roles of which they assigned. It consisted of setting fires here and there, the destruction of property, killings, and the assassination of all values. Look at how the United States is being portrayed on television screens in Iraq. The scenes are ones which they themselves have filmed and which we have only broadcast, because we do not have photographers there. They are the same pictures of the fires being set, the destruction, the killings, and the looting that took place in Iraq.

These are blows from God Almighty. You will witness these blows recurring against your enemies while you will remain with your heads raised high with pride.

Apart from sovereignty, honor, and the blood of the men who shoulder their responsibility when sovereignty and honor are threatened and who shed their blood to keep honor and protect the homeland, I say, apart from the defamation of sovereignty and honor, the issue of the blockade and the shortage of commodities here or there will completely disappear when the shortage is covered here or there. This issue will pass and end, and future generations will talk about it. They will say: They starved us at such and such a time; and when they are asked who starved you, they will say: Husni in the first place, Fahd in the second, and the West and Israel in the third.

Those are the ones who starved you, and not Bush; the man is a foreigner and yes, he has starved you. But he does not rank first. Who brought Bush to the land of Mecca and the land of the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and who has opened the door to him? No one would dare step on the land of the prophet, God's blessings and prayers be upon him, and the land of Mecca if no one had opened the door to him.

Fahd was the one who brought them, and Husni was the one who paved the way for their arrival with false information and by employing Egypt's moral weight in this criminal act. The two made it easy for Bush to arrive, alongside Zionism, to commit their crime against the people of Iraq.

They were both unlucky. If we assume, and some people say this, that Fahd was afraid for himself and did what he did because he is a neighbor of Kuwait, then should he not have done only that? Instead, we saw them go even further in their evil after the issue of Kuwait had developed and finished, in the way that you all know about.

As for Husni, instead of making up for his evil deeds, he committed more evil deeds and he continues to commit more of them. History will record how everyone has acted. But, as for the shortage in food, in medicine, and in anything, it will end.

I recall a story we were told when we were children and which has a special meaning. I am not certain if this story is true or not, but what is important is its meaning.

It was said that there was a waterway in a certain place that was so shallow that no boat could cross it, and that the water there ran very swiftly. Therefore, a man used to carry people to either bank on his shoulders for, let us say, one ruble or its equivalent at that time. One day an officer came and asked the man to take him to the other bank. An evil thought entered the man's mind and he decided to throw the officer into the water. When he reached the middle of the waterway with the officer on his shoulders, he began shaking and threw the man into the water. The officer knew that the man had not been prone to such convulsions and that the man had wanted to get him wet on purpose or to hurt him in this manner.

The officer said nothing. He sat on the other bank and dried his clothes, dressed himself neatly, and told the man: Am I not as neat as I have always been? The man agreed. The officer said: You did it to me, but I am as neat as I have always been. Your deed will be related to your sons, people will say you were prone to convulsions, no one will ask you to take them across the water anymore, and you will no longer be able to earn your living from that job. Indeed, this is what happened to him, and people said he was prone to convulsions.

The day will come when we will see our clothes dry and neater than ever before. This is not too far away, God willing.

That man was remembered for his evil deed, and history recorded it along with his subsequent deeds because he continued in his evil ways.

God be praised for everything, God be praised for everything, God be praised for everything.

'Aziz Scores Arab Blockade, Denies Oil Exported

JN0505144492 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 May 92 p 26

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan entitled: "Impressions From Baghdad: The Arab Embargo"]

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has spoken to us at length about his country's first diplomatic offensive against the Security Council in mid-March.

On the international side, he noted the continuing U.S. method of imposing pressure, both inside and outside the Security Council, to prevent countries from taking any step to ease the blockade, even if these steps are in line with the Security Council resolutions allowing Iraq to import medicine and food and to use its frozen assets.

In short, the U.S. objective is not the implementation of the resolutions, because these resolutions were technically and practically implemented. Its objective is political sabotage to accomplish its colonialist designs on Iraq.

We, however, will not surrender to the U.S. policy which continues to fabricate pretexts and exacerbate the situation with Iraq. This is what Tariq 'Aziz said. He added that his country will soon launch another diplomatic offensive against the Security Council to have the international community face its responsibilities in light of the blockade which continues to be maintained without any justification and only because the United States wants it to remain in force.

The most important aspect of the blockade, however, does not lie in the U.S. or British stands. It is in the blockade imposed by some Arab countries. In essence, the blockade is an Arab one. This shameful surrender to the will of the United States, which is fulfilling the desires of Zionism, is the crux of the matter.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The Arab countries' honoring of the blockade is no longer justified, and any Arab foreign minister who enjoys a modicum of nationalism can stand up before the Security Council and say that maintaining the blockade is no longer technically or legally justified.

The Iraqis are aware that the blockade will continue because the Security Council will not lift it. The blockade is American, and the Security Council submits to the will of the United States, which, along with Britain, started the blockade against Iraq several months before 2 August. Indeed, the Arabs know that Baghdad had called for an Arab summit two months before the Gulf crisis began—a summit which discussed the blockade against Iraq and the ever-escalating U.S. policy of aggression against it.

The Iraqis do not hide their pain. Even some Arab states who had called for a peaceful solution have gone back on their stands, and most of them are not even implementing what the Security Council resolutions permit them to do. Others are refusing to allow Iraq to withdraw its funds held in frozen accounts.

What is being broadcast and published about the opening of the border between Iraq and a neighboring country or the imminent pumping of oil through its territory is no more than a rumor which the Iraqis—people and government—strongly denounce and refute.

To whomever asks them about this, the Iraqis say: Go to the border and you will see that not even an ant is getting across.

Opposition Says Saddam To Use Chemical Weapons

NC0505151592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Having failed to thwart the popular uprising, especially in the southern parts of our Iraq, the marshlands, the evil and cowardly regime in Baghdad intends to commit soon another folly like the one it committed against the city of Halabjah and our Kurdish people in 1988.

God's enemies the 'Aflaqites have been seen amassing large containers of chemical weapons and barrels of [word indistinct] in the military areas close to the marshlands in the south.

The tyrant Saddam, after our revolutionaries beat up his agents at the end of last April, has ordered his henchmen to transport internationally banned explosives to be ready to strike marshlands residents.

One revolutionary committee head has commented on the 'Aflaqites' intentions against our innocent people by saying that international and humanitarian organizations and the world must perform their effective role in stopping the criminal Saddam from massacring our people, especially because the world knows of this base man's crimes.

The commentator said that Saddam and his collapsing regime must realize that our people have rejected him since he started to tyrannize and control our country's resources. This popular rejection of the traitor Saddam is evinced by the long course of jihad and revolution shown in the rivers of our people's blood in the north and south.

Press Alleges U.S. Brutality Against Blacks

JN0305154792 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 3, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper today said that acquitting four police officers from charges of brutally beating a black motorist was not the direct reason to spark the black uprising but rather spark off the blacks revolt against the American system.

A paper article here today said that the real reasons for this revolt which had extended to other American major cities were found in the structure of the American society and the racial discrimination against the American blacks.

The paper expressed conviction that the uprising of coloured in the United States would remain live in the

conscience of the American society even if the federal forces managed to quell the fires of Los Angeles and maintain control over the situation.

The Iraqi paper further said that the situation in the United States would remain eligible for explosion since the machine of the capitalist and racial discrimination, persecution and exploitation continue in grinding the blacks, all coloured and the poor in America.

The paper expressed regret over the silence maintained by various political trends in the world over what is taking place in America under the guise of liberty, human rights and the new international order. This order allows the major countries, in the forefront America to interfere into the affairs of small countries and does not permit anyone to question about the rights of the coloured in those countries or their respect and commitment to the principles of human rights.

The English language newspaper 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' commenting on the bloody events in Los Angeles said all talk about freedom of speech, human rights, equitable treatment regardless of colour, race of religion has been reduced to rubbish by the latest black revolt. If American blacks are free to speak, have someone to listen to them, they would have acted in a totally different manner. Their outrage is so that it can only be interpreted as evidence of the accumulation of centuries of racial and social discrimination, it pointed out.

The paper added that the Los Angeles revolt is but a condemnation of the whole American political system which has obviously failed to put its words where its mouth is.

His own fellow countrymen have sent a loud cry to the world community at large that the American society is plagued with discrimination, persecution, oppression, absence of civil liberties, and above all tyranny.

The Iraqi paper further pointed out that it is the tyranny of the system which dazzles the onlooker with the blinking lights of modern industry and technology. But below the surface, there is a festering struggle between the rich, the poor, the white, the black, the native, the immigrant, in a nutshell between more than two societies.

With such incidents, America can never be the paradise of democracy. The scale of violence is indicative of centuries of oppression and absence of free expression.

President Bush must be sure now that his type of democracy is not going to sell well anymore, just as General Motors cars, the paper concluded.

Saddam Receives Birthday Cable From 'Arafat

JN0405122492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 92

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Brother President Saddam Husayn: Greetings of the revolution.

On your 55th birthday I am pleased to extend, on behalf of our struggling Arab Palestinian people and my brothers, the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, to your excellency, esteemed government, and the brotherly Iraqi people my warmest heartfelt congratulations and sincere brotherly greetings.

Your fraternal people's observance of this happy occasion confirms their love, loyalty, and respect for your excellency and their high confidence in you, so as to continue to lead their arduous national drive of civilized reconstruction and progress, to achieve their aspired glory, loftiness, and affluence, and so that brotherly, genuine Iraq will always remain, as we have known it to be, a supporter of the struggle of free, honorable people in its nation to give the nation a prominent status among world nations.

On this occasion I renew to your excellency and the steadfast, patient Iraqi people our deep appreciation for the constant, principled support that you have extended to our struggling people so as to enhance their national steadfastness and enable them to pursue their national struggle for liberation, as well as your support for the blessed intifadah, under the leadership of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative, so as to liberate their lands and holy places from Israeli occupation and restore and exercise their inalienable national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

While observing with appreciation and high respect the continuous activity by the brotherly Iraqi people to rebuild what was destroyed by the unjust aggressive war against them, our struggling people ask God Almighty to help the Iraqi people to restore their health and strength and to pursue, under your wise, courageous leadership, their march for progress, development, and prosperity.

I once again extend my warmest heartfelt congratulations, beseeching God Almighty to grant you good health, happiness, and long life, and the Iraqi people glory and prosperity.

It is a revolution until victory. Together and side by side until we pray in liberated Jerusalem, with God's help.

[Signed] Your brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Receives Message From Yemen's Salih

JN0405120492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations on his birthday from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen.

The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency Brother President Saddam Husayn of the Republic of Iraq: I am pleased to take the opportunity of your excellency's 55th birthday to extend to your excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes for continued health and happiness and to wish the Iraqi people continued progress, prosperity, and affluence.

Best regards,

[Signed] Your brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Saddam Sends Greetings to King Husayn

JN0205133992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the 39th anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers. The following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: On the 39th anniversary of your assumption of your constitutional powers, we are pleased to send to your majesty our sincerest congratulations and brotherly greetings, wishing you on this happy occasion good health, happiness, and long life, as well as wishing the fraternal Jordanian Arab people further progress, glory, and prosperity under your wise leadership. We beseech God Almighty to guide us all to the right path to serve the interests of our two brotherly peoples and our glorious Arab nation. With my best brotherly regards. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

Receives Thank-You Message

JN0405080692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in reply to the cable of congratulations that his excellency had sent him earlier on his assumption of his constitutional powers.

The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency Brother President Saddam Husayn, may God protect you: We have received with deep appreciation your kind, brotherly congratulations on the anniversary of our assumption of constitutional powers. While expressing our sincere thanks and love, we ask God Almighty to safeguard you so that you may serve your homeland and people, and to help us all to honor our obligations and carry out our duties toward our greater homeland and glorious nation. May God's mercy, peace, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

Saddam Orders Probe Into Journalists' 'Fraud'

JN0405152092 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 2 May 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that 3 million dinars be allocated to the Iraqi Journalists Union. This was disclosed by Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, president of the Journalists Union, at the proceedings of the union's first general extraordinary congress, which was convened under the slogan Birth of an Enduring Sacrifice by Journalism. [passage omitted]

The president of the Journalists Union noted that leader President Saddam Husayn ordered the formation of an investigation committee from the security organs and the financial auditing department to investigate the acts of forgery, fraud, and robbery that accompanied bogus sales and purchases in the Journalists Union. The union's president affirmed that steps have been taken to this effect. [passage omitted]

The first general extraordinary congress adopted a decision to fire the members who accepted living on foreigners' crumbs and who sold themselves and their consciences to the propaganda which is hostile to Iraq, its people, and its leader. [passage omitted]

Union Awarded 3 Million Dinars

JN0105172992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 May 92

[Excerpt] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that 3 million dinars be allocated to the Iraqi Journalists Union. This was disclosed by Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, president of the Journalists Union, at the proceedings of the union's first general extraordinary congress, which was convened under the slogan Birth of an Enduring Sacrifice by Journalism. His excellency the leader, may God safeguard him, has also ordered the allocation of housing plots to all journalists at their places of birth, with the exception of Baghdad.

The Journalists Union president also announced that a definitive agreement has been reached by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and Iraqi newspaper and magazine editors on a 25-percent pay raise for all Iraqi journalists. He announced the reopening of the Baghdad School of Journalism and the formation of a committee to draw up curricula for the school. In a first in the history of Iraqi journalists, they gave their union chief, Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the powers enjoyed by the general authority to settle issues falling under its jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Criticizes 'Treacherous' Arab Leaders

JN0205173992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 May 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has conveyed greetings from leader President Saddam Husayn to the delegations of Arab workers attending celebrations marking Labor Day and the Arab Workers Festival for Solidarity With Iraq. He also conveyed his excellency's appreciation for the workers' national and pan-Arab role.

During a meeting today with delegations of Arab workers, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the nation will triumph despite the enemies' plots. He pointed out that pan-Arab awakening and awareness began to expand and escalate following the legendary great duel in the Mother of Battles, which projected the true nature and essence of the Arab individual, whose energies and resources are greater than the enemy conspiracies.

The vice president emphasized that Iraq, led by struggling President Saddam Husayn, will not retreat from the pan-Arab principles which it followed to achieve the Arab nation's objectives in unity and liberation.

He added that the Iraqis will break the economic blockade with their sweat, jihad, productive creativity, and own resources.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that the results of the Mother of Battles, and the clear separation between the trenches of good and evil, dictate that we have a new formula to face the enemies of the nation and humanity.

He urged mass organizations and professional unions to revolutionize their activities and their formulas of action to mobilize the Arab masses and expose the treacherous rulers, who serve as obedient tools to implement the aggressive policies of the Arab enemies, the United States, and its allies. He stressed that the Arabs masses and not the agents and subservient and treacherous rulers have a genuine interest in the nation's progress and future.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that the current attempts in the Arab arena to conspire against the nation can be transformed by the good Arab masses into a positive climate and circumstance to explode their energies, determine the objective, and differentiate between the enemies and the friends. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Official Urges Boycott of Western Goods

JN0305202792 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 2 May 92 p 2

[Text] Baghdad, INA—Comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the Central Bureau of the party's professional and popular organizations, has affirmed that the current dangers facing the Arab nation in the aftermath of the outrageous 30-state aggression against Iraq require a historic and truthful stand by all Arab, Islamic, and international professional, trade, and popular unions and associations.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Comrade Hadi added that the dangers at this point in time are reflected in the ceaseless U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracies against the Iraqi people through the continued imposition of the unjust and unfair economic blockade on them with the aim of starving them for their legendary steadfastness in the historic showdown of the eternal "Mother of Battles" under leader President Saddam Husayn.

Comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi reiterated that what is required nowadays, in light of the historic and pan-Arab duties that must be performed by all Arab, Islamic, and international professional and popular unions and organizations, is to take serious, immediate, and effective steps aimed at prompting the Arab and Islamic masses and the international public, as well to boycott the commodities of the states of aggression, particularly U.S., British, and French commodities, and to make them refrain from engaging in any transactions involving these commodities. Besides, he noted, the commodities of those who facilitated their aggression must also be boycotted. He indicated that the maintenance of the unfair blockade does not only target the Iraqi people but also all the Arab people, as well as peoples who cherish affection, justice, fairness, right, and peace all over the world.

The Iraq Command member pointed out that these unions, associations, and organizations must also urge their governments to consummate this boycott of U.S., British, and French goods on the largest possible scale and to sever all economic cooperation with the states of the aggression because this would help curb the belligerent intentions of these states and thwart their aggressive and evil objectives concerning the maintenance of their unfair blockade on Iraq, particularly because the justifications for maintaining this blockade on the Iraqi people have been removed.

Comrade Hadi pointed out that the United States and its allies used the economic blockade as a weapon aimed at starving the steadfast and mujahid Iraqi people for their refusal to succumb to them. The United States and its allies, he noted, will not hesitate to impose a similar blockade on other Arab states in the future, because their new policy is to deal separately with each Arab state one after another and to put economic pressures on them to bring them to their knees. He maintained that the Arab nation is capable of confronting firmly these aggressive powers by boycotting U.S., British, and French commodities until all links and shackles of this hateful and unfair blockade are broken.

The Iraq Command member said that dignity, pride, Arab independence, and the rejection of subservience to the foreigner will be dearer to the hearts and more

cherished than all U.S., British, and French goods if the Arabs choose to live honorably and proudly among the community of nations.

Papers Support Boycott

JN0105114792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called on the Arab masses to boycott the goods and commodities produced by countries of the Zionist-imperialist aggression, namely the United States, France, and Britain, which are leading the direct aggression against this nation and imposing a comprehensive siege and starvation policies on Iraq and Libya.

In an editorial today the paper emphasizes that the struggling Arab forces of all leanings bear the responsibility to stand decisively against U.S., British, and French interests.

The paper adds: The strategy of the neo-imperialists in Washington, London, and Paris seeks to reverse the wheels of history by erasing the accomplishments and gains that Third World peoples and nations have achieved through their struggles and sacrifices over past decades.

The paper explains that the U.S., British, and French began their black imperialist era by launching the 30-state aggression against Iraq, under the canopy of the so-called new world order and the claims of defending international legitimacy and human rights. In essence, they aim to abort the nation's revival which is in its strongest and most prominent, advanced stages.

The paper affirms that the consequent events revealed that the imperialist aggression in its military, economic, and political aspects has started reaching out for the long-term aspects of the nation with the aim of isolating each aspect from the other and eliminating their collective resistance.

The paper continues: We are not surprised by what is currently happening against Libya and the preparations for military aggression against this Arab country at a time when the new imperialists, the protectors of Zionism, continue to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to prepare for aggression against any Arab country which does not submit to the will of the imperialists or comply with their policies.

The paper stresses that when an entire nation is targeted, when its historical rights, sovereignty over its land and resources, independence, and present and future are threatened, the Arab people and their honorable and struggling revolutionary forces are the first to uphold the cause and the decisive decisionmakers in confronting the imperialist aggression facing this nation.

Concluding, the paper says that the Arab national liberation movement abounds with experiments and experience in leading and organizing public action. The national and pan-Arab duty requires the use of all effective and possible means to establish a wide and growing popular movement representing a practical response to confront the unfair imperialist siege currently imposed on Iraq and Libya and to actively contribute to the struggle to foil it.

In an article today AL-QADISIYAH says: The Arab nation is threatened—now and in the future—by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist conspiracy aimed at subjugating the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf, plundering their national resources, and seizing their minds.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The war criminal Bush and his followers, the agents and Zionist lackeys, are still betting on continuing his criminal aggression and on the repressive acts carried out by the silent and collaborating Arab regimes against the Arab masses. They want to prevent the masses from expressing their real stand which rejects and challenges the plot and supports Iraq and its people.

The paper emphasizes that in light of this bitter fact, which accompanies Arab political life at this stage, the formulas of mass struggle should follow a genuine and new approach that bypasses these regimes and their repressive and terrorist methods and contains their military force with which they rule our Arab people. One of these militant formulas, which our people assumed with honor and which produced splendid results in the confrontation with the enemy, halted the official Arab retreat after the masses raised their fist. In addition, this directly deterred greater dangers that could have been posed by the conspiracy of aggression. This militant formula—which we call for at this stage as an earnest, practical, and tangible preamble to a popular uprising throughout the Arab homeland to straighten out matters and let the heads of treacherous rulers roll from their thrones—is represented by boycotting U.S. British, and French commodities in particular because these countries led the criminal 30-state aggression against Iraq and its people. These same countries are now imposing a blockade on sisterly Libya. They are acting in accordance with a plot prepared in advance in White House circles to wage war against the Arab nation so that this nation will remain under the yoke of colonialist hegemony and threatened by the Zionist entity, its expansionist ambitions, and by what this entity represents as the forward base of the U.S.-Western colonialist plot against the Arab nation.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Although this militant formula aiming to confront the conspiracy is not in harmony with the size of the challenge of this conspiracy in terms of its comprehensive colonialist objectives, it is at the same time a successful beginning to a firm confrontation of the U.S. aggression.

Timing of Kuwaiti-Allied Exercises Questioned

JN0305200992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1650 GMT 3 May 92

["Commentary" from the "Spotlights on the News" program "written" by 'Abd-al-Nabi Khaz'al and read by Raysan Mudar]

[Text] The new military exercises held for the first time since last February's military agreement between Britain and the rulers imposed on Kuwait are described as the first of their kind in terms of their magnitude. U.S. forces, Kuwaiti units, British Royal Marines, and the Royal Navy frigate HMS Beaver are taking part. Observers note two points. There has been no mention of the size and types of U.S. forces which will participate in this operation, while the size and types of British forces have already been disclosed. Kuwait signed a military agreement with the United States last September similar to the Kuwaiti-UK agreement. Since then U.S. units have conducted several exercises.

The second point is that when these exercises began there was no mention of the size and types of the U.S. and British forces, which have been present in the region since the treacherous aggression on Iraq in 1991. Observers also believe that these exercises have been timed to coincide with the chill in relations among the Damascus Declaration states and with the failure of the Syrian and Egyptian regimes to arrange security relations among the eight signatory states to the declaration. This timing raises more than one question about the ill intentions of the rulers imposed on Kuwait, who are working quickly to foil any effort to create an Arab military presence in the region.

Moreover, these exercises also coincide with other exercises by the Iranian Navy, which has chopped the most important part of the Gulf cake, namely Abu-Musa' Island, which was devoured calmly by the Iranian regime amid the silence of the Gulf, Saudi, and Kuwaiti regimes. The two latter regimes have not voiced any objection but only hastened to build bridges of confidence and close relations with the Iranian regime. What will happen after these exercises, and what are the future plans of the new Western alliance to contain the region? The coming days will answer this, and every good person in the world will know the facts.

PUK's Talabani Tours Kurdistan

NC0605094492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Struggler Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], is touring various parts of Kurdistan. Yesterday the masses warmly welcomed him at the Pira Magrun complex, where the brother secretary general delivered an important speech in which he referred to the situation in Kurdistan, preparations to elect a Kurdistan parliament, and the Kurdish people's right to self-determination.

Yesterday afternoon brother Talabani visited the town of (Puysinjak), where townsfolk and peshmerga forces warmly welcomed him. He delivered an important speech in which he referred to his recent visit to Iran and stated that the Iraqi regime had believed that our people could not and would not vindicate their rights in the current regional circumstances, but the regime's beliefs were (?in vain). He said: Our relations with our neighbors are stronger than ever.

As for the PUK's relations with the Iraqi opposition forces, brother Talabani said that most of these forces recognize the Kurdish people's right to self-determination within an integrated, democratic Iraq.

On Kurdistan's economy, brother Talabani said that building villages, reconstructing Kurdistan, and reviving agricultural and animal resources are priorities for the future parliament.

On the Iraqi regime's future, brother Talabani noted that the regime is now in the throes of death. All of its weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed and the world now rejects it.

The brother secretary general alluded to the impossibility of dialogue with the current Iraqi regime, affirming that the entire world recognizes the Kurdish people's just rights. On the future parliament of Kurdistan, brother Talabani express his hope that every community and party would have seats in it. He indicated that our struggle is for democracy and against dictatorship.

The brother secretary general then presented the PUK's program for the Kurdistan parliament.

The brother struggler Talabani continued his tour today by traveling to Irbil, where the struggling masses, peshmerga forces, and PUK members received him warmly.

The PUK secretary general promised Irbil's valiant masses a speech later.

Paper Says Iran Prepared To Support Talabani

JN0205084892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The Iranian leadership is ready to assist the Jalal Talabani faction and to bolster their position against their political rivals.

Today's edition of the newspaper BABIL cites sources inside Iran as saying that during his talks with Iranian officials last week, Talabani emphasized two basic points. First, he asked for Iranian support for his group in its dispute with other parties in the Kurdistan Front.

Second, the sources revealed, Talabani urged officials in Tehran to instruct their loyalists in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region to stand with his factions in their conflict with Mas'ud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

It is noteworthy that Talabani met with the head of the Israeli intelligence service, the Mosad, in Tehran recently in what seems to be an attempt to obtain aid from Tel Aviv to bolster his group's position against the other Kurdish forces in the region.

The London-based AL-'ARAB newspaper says that Talabani's meeting with the Mosad head was not the first,

explaining that the two frequently have made simultaneous visits to the Turkish capital. The paper stated that Talabani supplied Tel Aviv, Tehran, and Washington with Iraqi civilian, economic, and military secrets which would make Iraq's strategic sites liable to military aggression.

Report Alleges Iran-Iraq 'Deal' Against MKO

NC0305171192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Iraqi and Iranian sources in London have stated that Baghdad and Tehran are studying a new deal. The sources said that the finalization of the deal hinges on the repudiated [Iraqi] regime's acceptance of Iran's conditions, the foremost of which is that Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], and all his cadres and members be expelled from Iraqi territory.

According to available information, Saddam Husayn, the repudiated tyrant, has formed a committee headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri and comprising members of the so-called Revolution Council and the Council of Ministers to study the deal and present him with recommendations.

The Iraqi-Iranian sources added that Mas'ud Rajavi somehow has been informed of this deal and been told that the possibility of the repudiated regime accepting it outweighs that of rejecting it.

Some close to Rajavi say that Rajavi has opened contacts with Algeria with a view to taking refuge there should the deal be concluded between Baghdad and Tehran, because relations between Iran and Algeria are poor. Algeria accuses Tehran of interfering in its internal affairs and fomenting disturbances inside it.

The Iraqi circles, however, which do not rule out the regime's approval of the Iranian conditions, believe that the regime might delay its approval until Iran provides guarantees that it will hand over the [Iraqi] planes as soon as Iraq expels the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Regime officials had spoken of treacherous Iranian operations during the Gulf war.

The sources indicated that Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front in Sudan, arranged the deal during quick visits he paid to Baghdad and Tehran before the month of Ramadan.

Industrial Official Notes Domestic Car Production

JN0305152892 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 3, INA—General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of the Military Industrialization body said Iraq is to start producing several agricultural and productive equipment and vehicles that are purely manufactured by Iraqi hands, materials and experiences.

In a statement to INA, General Husayn Kamil added that at the instructions of President Saddam Husayn, combatants of the Military Industrialization continue their exceptional efforts for producing these materials and in accordance with international specifications and with high efficiency for producing those equipment needed by the local markets. He added that these equipment were the first step along the path of achieving self-sufficiency and preliminary for wider production for exporting them abroad.

General Husayn Kamil added that Military Industrialization men had completed the preparations for producing the first Iraqi trucks, pickups and salon cars in addition to camions and various tractors and harvesters.

The general added that priority was given for manufacturing big and small trucks and tractors and harvesters because of the importance of the agricultural sector and developing it at present and for breaking the oppressive economic blockade.

He further said that the annual production capacity of the Iraqi tractor would be between 10-12 thousand tractors liable for increase after one year and would ensure the needs of the local market.

General Husayn Kamil further said that during the current year, the first Iraqi salon car would be produced within the frame of a project for producing 16,000 salon cars annually and would be the type of the Japanese super [as received] and the American Oldsmobile.

General Kamil added that all preliminary and manufacturing designs are ready and that citizens could list for getting such cars later on.

General Kamil further said that the Military Industrialization body would also start manufacturing electrical equipments and sets like freezers, refrigators, TV sets, compressors, video and radio sets and air coolers.

Diyala Governor Opens Border Complex

JN0505141692 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 4 May 92 p 2

[By AL-'IRAQ correspondent in Diyala]

[Text] Deputizing for Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Diyala Governor Tu'mah Du'ayyif Kitan has opened the al-Mundhiriyah border complex, which houses a passenger hall, a passport control office, and a health and agricultural unit.

The ceremony was attended by a representative of the chief of the border troops, the head of the General Customs Department, the Khanaqin District officer, and a large number of citizens.

Egypt Frees Espionage Suspect Ovitz From Prison

TA0605045092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0406 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] David Ovitz and the three members of the al-Misrati family—father Faris, his daughter Fa'iqa, and her brother Majid—returned to Israel early this morning after being released from an Egyptian jail.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, David Ovitz told our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i that the conditions of his detention were unbearable. Most of the time he was kept in solitary confinement and felt like a hostage. Ovitz nevertheless stressed that he was treated courteously and was only subjected to superficial interrogations.

Faris al-Misrati told our correspondent that he was beaten in prison. He was injured and required medical treatment. His daughter, Fa'iqa, said she denied the Egyptians' allegations that she was a Mosad agent. Fa'iqa asserted that her interrogators showed her documents with her falsified signature on them.

Yosef Hadas, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, met the released Israelis at the airport. He said that in his opinion the affair would not harm relations between Israel and Egypt.

Hadas on Impact of Ovitz Affair

TA0605054792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0411 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Dr. Yosef Hadas, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, does not believe that the Ovitz-al-Misrati affair will affect relations between Israel and Egypt. He said that Israel's vigorous efforts, especially Foreign Minister Levi's appeal to his Egyptian counterpart, expedited the Israelis' release from the Egyptian prison. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i spoke with Mr. Hadas, who was at the airport this morning to greet the released Israelis.

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] Foreign Ministry officials do not believe that the Ovitz-al-Misrati affair will have a detrimental effect on relations between Egypt and Israel. Here are hitherto unpublished details: Israel submitted an appeal against Faris al- Misrati's three-and-a-half-year prison sentence. The hearing of the appeal has been postponed. Meanwhile, Egypt has released all the prisoners. How did Israel achieve their release? Dr. Yosef Hadas, the director general of the Foreign Ministry supplies the answer:

[Hadas] By our activity and constant appeals that this investigation could not be dragged on endlessly. We told them: If you have any evidence, use it! So they realized they had no solid evidence against David Ovitz. The Egyptians themselves subsequently did not want to discriminate between an Israeli and any citizen of another country.

[Vilna'i] Dr. Hadas, has this affair damaged relations between the two countries?

[Hadas] Look, it could definitely have caused damage had this affair continued. The foreign minister, our ambassador, and I myself with the Egyptian ambassador constantly warned that if the affair continued to drag on in this manner it could be detrimental to relations between our countries. I believe that they got the message, and I hope that we can now shelve this matter without forgetting to draw the necessary conclusions regarding behavior in future. [end recording]

Shamir—No 'Irreparable' Damage

TA0605103492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed the release of David Ovitz and the al-Misrati family. Shamir said that the Ovitz- al-Misrati affair would not cause irreparable damage to Israel's relations with Egypt.

When Mr. Shamir was asked if Israeli tourists should fear false arrest in Egypt he replied: They should always be on the alert.

Meretz Knesset Member Amnon Rubinstein sharply criticized the Egyptian Government's conduct during the Ovitz-al-Misrati affair. He said the affair proved that Egypt grossly violates human rights and was far from being a country governed by the rule of law. Mr. Rubinstein called on the Israeli Government to demand that Egypt compensate Ovitz and al-Misrati for the grievous suffering caused by their arbitrary arrest and by the inhuman conditions under which they were held.

Officials Dispute Syria Stance on Jews' Travel

TA0605050592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Harrop says the Syrian announcement it plans to release Jews is a reliable one. Interviewed by Israel television, Harrop called the Syrian move a confidence-building measure to improve the atmosphere for the current peace process. He urged Israel to respond with its own confidence-building measure but would not specify what he thought that should be.

In reaction to the ambassador's statement, officials in Jerusalem said Syria has made it quite clear that it is not allowing Jews to emigrate. In the words of one official to our reporter Jack Katzenell, Syria says it has decided to permit Jews from time to time to go abroad for short periods, and even this has not been put to the test. So Syria has not made any extraordinary gesture, and only time will tell if the Syrian move was anything more than public relations.

Amnesty Report on al-Khiyam Prison Full of 'Lies'

TA0605083292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] After reading the Amnesty report on south Lebanon's al- Khiyam prison, official Israeli sources asserted that the

report is full of distortions and lies. They said that the report is based on false and tendentious testimonies.

The sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Israel maintains good relations with General Antoine Lahd, the commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. They said Israel has deep respect for Lahd's strict observance that his prisoners be kept in humanitarian and tolerable conditions. This attitude starkly contrasts the accepted conditions in other Lebanese prisons, the sources noted.

The sources pointed out that foreign correspondents who had visited al-Khiyam prison had also received a similar impression.

Al-Husayni Calls for Conference To Close Ranks

TA0505115992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 92 p A2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, called on Sunday for the convening of a comprehensive national conference in the territories in order to close ranks. He called on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to join other national factions in implementing this initiative.

Al-Husayni addressed approximately 200 Palestinian journalists at East Jerusalem's al-Ibrahimiyah college. The journalists assembled to mark what was described as "international journalism day." The convention was mostly devoted to the Palestinian journalists' lack of freedom in light of the constraints imposed upon them.

In his speech, al-Husayni described the steps he believes should be taken now. He began by stressing the need for national unity and called on all the Palestinian organizations in the territories to close ranks in light of recent developments in the territories and the international political arena. Al-Husayni expressly called on Hamas to join this effort.

In this regard, al-Husayni declared that a joint preparatory committee should be established. This committee would help organize a comprehensive national conference of all the Palestinian organizations in the territories. He said that the conference should formulate an "honor document"—a kind of covenant of voluntary agreement between all the various groups.

Al-Husayni presented the "renewal and reorganization of public institutions in the occupied territories" as an additional goal. A third goal for Palestinian national action is "the effort to incorporate the Palestinian issue within the new international balance of power," in order to maximize gains for the Palestinian national interest.

In the absence of any official Palestinian national authority in the territories, the conference would constitute a sort of supreme body that would set the rules for resolving both political and labor-related disputes. Some people believe that the conference idea lays the groundwork for the establishment of a future Palestinian legislative assembly.

According to Palestinian sources close to Fatah, the idea for the national conference was recently discussed by the "national" Palestinian institutions (or, in other words, those groups under the PLO umbrella) in a bid to consolidate broader guidelines for an internal charter to resolve differences by democratic means, without fierce power struggles and violent confrontations.

The sources reported that Hamas, which has recently gathered momentum and established itself among the Palestinian public as a major counterforce to the PLO in the territories, has so far not accepted the idea of a national conference. The PLO's rejectionist front—the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine—have not responded affirmatively either. Thus, it remains unclear whether the conference idea can be implemented.

Kakh Activists Attempt Attack on Faysal al-Husayni

TA0505141892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Three Kakh Movement activists were detained this afternoon at the Jerusalem District Court after again attempting to attack Faysal al-Husayni. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that al-Husayni arrived at the courthouse under heavy police protection to testify in the trial of another Kakh activist, No'am Federman, who is charged with attacking al-Husayni. The three Kakh members, including movement heads Barukh Marzel and Tiran Polack, lashed at him when he entered the courtroom. The police stopped them before they got to al-Husayni and detained them for questioning.

IDF To Blockade West Bank, Gaza 6-8 May

TA0505123592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] will impose a blockade on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip during Memorial Day and Independence Day. The blockade will begin at 0300 tonight and will continue until Friday dawn. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during the blockade the inhabitants of the territories will be banned from crossing the Green Line.

IDF Kills 13-Year-Old Boy With Rubber Bullets

TA0505184892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 92 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning, terrorists fired a volley of shots at Assistant Commander Yosef Avni, the Gaza District police commander, while he was driving his car.

Avni was not hurt. It has not been determined whether one or two terrorists were involved. [passage omitted]

Three wanted youths were captured yesterday during an initiated IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Dayr al-Balah. Several weapons and large quantities of ammunition were confiscated. The three fugitives, who are members of the "Fatah Hawks," are suspected of attacking and murdering a number of Arab residents, as well as of several attempts to attack IDF troops. [passage omitted]

According to Palestinian sources, serious clashes broke out between soldiers and Arab youths from the refugee camp after the three men were arrested. Four local residents were injured in the first wave of disturbances. The IDF failed to disperse the demonstrations all day, during which dozens of Dayr al-Balah residents took to the streets. In the afternoon, the demonstrators stormed an IDF outpost in the camp. The soldiers fired at the mob and wounded another five people. [passage omitted]

Majid Zahdi Nahal, 13, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, died yesterday at Tel Hashomer Hospital. He had been seriously injured on Thursday when border policemen were stoned in Jabalyah and reacted by shooting rubber bullets. The boy was hit in the head and taken to hospital in serious condition. [passage omitted]

Gazan Shot Dead in Struggle With Three Soldiers

TA0605051392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] A resident of Gaza city was shot and killed yesterday after he attacked soldiers with a knife. Three soldiers were lightly injured in the incident. The attacker, Zakariyya Muhammad Mustaha, pulled a knife at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock. A struggle ensued, in which two soldiers were lightly wounded. One soldier shot the attacker, wounding him critically. A third soldier was lightly wounded by a ricochet bullet. The three soldiers and the Gaza resident were taken to Barzilay Hospital, where Mustaha later died.

Israeli Arabs Seek Representation in Peace Talks

TA0405110692 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 May 92 p 7

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] A poll conducted in Nazareth by the Yafo Research Institute and encompassing 1,518 respondents revealed that 43.6 percent of Israeli Arabs feel they should be represented on the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Thirty-two percent believe that Israeli Arabs have no role to play in the negotiations, and 17.5 percent think that the Israeli delegation should include a representative on their behalf.

The continuation of the peace talks was supported by 70.8 percent of the respondents, with 17.3 percent opposed to this. As for whether they were satisfied with the functioning of the Palestinian delegation, 51.4 percent responded in the affirmative, 31.5 percent replied that they were satisfied to a certain extent, while 17.1 percent expressed dissatisfaction.

The poll showed that 16.1 percent of those interviewed believe that the peace negotiations will lead to an independent Palestinian state, while 26.4 percent said they will result in autonomy. A confederation with Jordan is seen as the end result by 6.5 percent of the respondents, while 50.3 percent replied that the negotiations will not bring about any change whatsoever in the situation.

Abu-Jabir Confers With Delegates to Multilaterals

JN0505161292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir received at his office this afternoon some Jordanian and Palestinian delegates to meetings of the multilateral talks which are scheduled to begin next week with working groups meeting to discuss economic development, refugees, water resources, and the environment. The foreign minister reviewed with the peace delegates Jordan's views on the issues that will be discussed; views which maintain that the peace process is a full-blown endeavor aimed at reaching a comprehensive, honorable, and just settlement of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Editorial: Israel May Try To Foil Multilaterals

JN0605104592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "What Is Israel Plotting Against Regional Negotiations?"]

[Text] A new round of multilateral negotiations will begin in the next few days when the working groups on refugees, environment, and arms control convene.

It is hoped that the multilateral talks, which are complementary to the bilateral negotiations and part of the peace process, will make progress so that the whole exercise will be pushed forward. This requires sufficient Arab preparations and readiness based on coordination and on formulating common Arab positions toward topics on the agenda of these sensitive regional talks.

However, it is not unlikely that Israel will make malicious attempts to disturb these negotiations and lead them up a blind alley, as it did with five rounds of bilateral talks in Washington. Israel's threats to Syria and its preparations for an aggressive military action against that country may reflect on the atmosphere of the regional talks and prevent any progress. It is noted that Israel is making provocative military preparations reflecting hostile intentions against Syria and Lebanon.

Because Israel does not want the peace process to make any progress whatsoever, it will do its best to obstruct this process or foil it completely if possible. The Arab parties, therefore, should be fully alert to Israel's premeditated provocative and aggressive intentions.

Because of its intransigence and attempts to abort the peace process, Israel has lost a great deal of its reputation in the world. On the other hand, the Arab parties have won over the support of the world community, or at least, most of its members.

Take Japan, for example. While it previously played no explicit and declared political role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and always avoided arousing Israel's anger, it is now raising its voice, asking Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories on the bases of UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

This is a clear indication that the open and frank Arab diplomacy has succeeded. The Arabs have proven to the international community their intent to render the peace process a success, and their eagerness to have the entire world participate in the making of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Pakistani Labor Minister Departs 5 May

JN0605105092 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Amman, 6 May (PETRA)—Mohammad Ejazul Haq, Pakistani minister of labor and manpower, left Amman yesterday evening at the end of an official five-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and his excellency the prime minister.

He also conferred with other officials on bilateral relations in all fields.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Minister of Labor 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, a number of ranking officials, and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

'Commitment' To Restore Dome of the Rock Affirmed

JN0505192992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Cabinet, and upon his majesty the king's instructions, today affirmed its commitment to finance restoration of the Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem. The king's instructions stem from his keen interest to protect the holy city, its holy shrines, and Arab character. A special committee in charge of the restoration of al-Aqsa [Mosque] is to remain in session until the operation is completed.

Prime Minister Resigns; Chronology of Events

Karami Returns From Damascus

NC0505161592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has returned from Damascus. He arrived there this morning to hold talks with ranking Syrian officials on developments in Lebanon.

Karami Cited on 'Conspiracy'

NC0605125192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said he has explained to Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam that the issue [a reference to the current domestic situation] has become psychological, that the government no longer has the weapons to deal with the situation, and that it would be better for new faces to provide a new spirit and a chance to save the country and complete the march.

AL-SAFIR cited him as saying: I can no longer bear it and nor can the country. We have done everything. He spoke again about a conspiracy, saying: They [not further specified] are targeting Syria in Lebanon, not 'Umar Karami. They want September [a reference to that month's scheduled Syrian withdrawal] and 17 May [a reference the 17 May peace agreement with Israel], not this government. It is not they who are to blame, but those of the same rank who got where they are today because of Syria's efforts. We should have been united and the brothers should not have stabbed each other, knowing the conspiracy's goals.

Prime Minister Karami asked: Are events natural? Why is there such foolishness? Hasn't trade in the money market exceeded thousands of dollars? Why has the aid evaporated despite all the promises? He admitted that the Central Bank's statement was one of the mistakes.

Concluding, Karami said: They want to topple the government. Never mind. Syria will only accept a government that will maintain a national balance, otherwise the tables will be turned on them all. If some think the issue is that of a government, I repeat that it is one of conspiracy. I hope I may be proved wrong. We must rescue the march because it is important to continue it. He maintained that those who have begun their battle will continue.

Karami Resigns 6 May

NC0605130292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] A short while ago, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami announced the resignation of his government, formed on 24 December 1990. He added that his government is resigning to save the country.

Four-Day Labor Strike Protests State of Economy

'Conspiracy Against Homeland' Seen

NC0505130792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The General Labor Federation has declared a four-day strike beginning tomorrow morning, Wednesday, 6 May, until Sunday morning, 10 May. The strike's goal is to make the government halt the collapse of the national currency and confront the conspiracy against the people and homeland.

The decision to strike was made after a meeting of the General Labor Federation, held at its headquarters at the port and chaired by Antoine Bisharah.

Tires Burned; Police Deployed

NC0605091392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] A strike commenced in Beirut and other Lebanese areas this morning following a General Labor Federation call for a four- day strike to protest the deteriorating economic situation. Tires were burned in a number of areas and public roads, making travel difficult. Security forces were deployed on the streets of Beirut to prevent violations and to open blocked roads. Officials have emphasized that the protests need to be peaceful.

Shots Fired Amid 'Acts of Violence'

NC0605123592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpts] Despite the General Labor Federation's call for a peaceful strike and demonstrations, a call seconded by all the trade unions and professional organizations, some people have attempted to exploit the delicate situation by attacking private and public property. Security forces have fired gunshot into the air to prevent demonstrators from carrying out more acts of violence against banks, shops, and parked cars. [passage omitted]

The nationwide strike was staged in response to the General Labor Federation's call for a four-day strike to protest the current economic deterioration. Demonstrations were staged in the street of Beirut. All the main roads were closed due to burning tires. Shops, banks, and schools were closed.

Security sources report that the driver of a Land Rover opened fire on a group of citizens in Zuqaq al-Balat, wounding three. The man was caught by citizens and given to the Internal Security Forces, which have begun an investigating into the incident. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators entered the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki, shouting slogans denouncing the present situation. The demonstrators destroyed the car of Latakia Bishop Antoine Tarabay. The demonstrators left the building about 15 minutes later. Bkirki officials contacted the security authorities, and an army force of two

armored personnel carriers was sent to Bkirki. An Internal Security Forces unit from Juniyah station led by Colonel Shawqi Harb also was dispatched to Bkirki.

'Black Smoke' Covers Beirut

NC0605094692 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 6 May 92

[Report by Salim Yassin]

[Text] Beirut, May 6 (AFP) - Black smoke covered the Lebanese capital on Wednesday, where demonstrators protesting a spiralling cost of living increase set fires across the city as a nationwide five-day work stoppage got under way.

The strike was called by the General Workers' Confederation, which groups some 60 unions with a total membership of 200,000. The group warned Tuesday that the stoppage would "affect the entire country, public and private sector alike, with the exception of the press." "Our goal is to bring about the formation of a government that will save the economy," a confederation official told AFP.

"We will not let them starve us," a group of demonstrators, mostly children and youths, chanted in a Beirut street.

Protesters here and in other large cities blocked roads with rocks, tree branches and old cars and chanted slogans urging the "government to resign."

Fires started overnight were burning again at dawn and blazes were also raging in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley, correspondents said. They said the demonstrators were not armed. Lebanese and Syrian troops observed them at a distance but failed to intervene.

The strike is the third of its kind this year in Lebanon, where the Lebanese pound has plunged against the U.S. dollar, forcing prices up and prompting many merchants nationwide to refuse to accept the local currency. Nearly all consumer goods in Lebanon are imported and most merchants have posted the prices of goods in dollars.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami returned home late Tuesday after a brief visit to Damascus where—according to government sources—Syria has approved the government's reshuffle.

Angry protests erupted in south Lebanon Tuesday, where hundreds of demonstrators set fire to the home of Lebanese Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil.

On Tuesday evening many youths surrounded by housewives set up barricades and burned tires outside the St. Georges Hotel, where the Union of Arab Insurers was having a dinner party for 1,000 members.

"They are partying while we are starving," one of the housewives shouted. "Today we burn tires, tomorrow it'll be looting," a young demonstrator added. The party broke up as security forces dispersed the demonstrators.

Birri Appeals For Calm

NC0505125492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] The spontaneous public demonstrations staged in various parts of the country today sincerely expresses the Lebanese people's outcry and protest against the alarming economic situation, particularly after the exchange rate fell to 2000 Lebanese pounds per dollar. [passage omitted]

Following incidents, demonstrations, and attacks against private property in the south, Nabih Birri, state minister and Amal Movement leader, addressed the following appeal to the people in the south:

To our kinfolk in the south and all over Lebanon: We were the first to warn you about the poor performance of this government. What is happening today, particularly in the south and the artificial increase in the exchange rate, has reached the point of jeopardizing Lebanon's security. We, therefore, call on our kinfolk to maintain calm, stop the demonstrations, extinguish the fires, and cease to attack property. We denounce the attacks on property, including the house of Minister 'Ali al-Khalil. We need to be responsible. The south, which has safeguarded the homeland, must not allow a conspiracy to be implemented through it.

Army Units Deploy; Checkpoints Set Up

NC0505143692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] We were informed a short while ago that Army units have been mobilized. The Army has patrols on the streets and has set up mobile and fixed checkpoints. It has also been working in cooperation with the Sidon fire brigade to put out fires in burning tires. An ambulance has been patrolling al-Nabatiyah in anticipation of any emergency.

Hizballah Urges 'Restraint'

NC0605113492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 May 92

[Statement issued by Hizballah on the deteriorating economic situation; place, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when the nation's economic and financial situation is on the verge of total collapse due to the involvement of some government officials and their partners in the game of starving and impoverishing the citizens, the state of public anger shows the level which the situation in the country has reached, a level which augers dire and painful consequences that might complicate matters, and increase adversities and problems. This would produce a political crisis in addition to the deteriorating economic crisis. The country cannot bear the consequences of such developments.

From our reading of the overall political and economic developments, we do not believe that anything new has happened to explain the deterioration of the economic situation. The same old problems exist. The same political pressure from various government officials and groups abroad are trying hard to destroy Lebanon in order to control Lebanon.

Naturally, we are not overlooking the government's shortcomings and its poor performance, which have facilitated and allowed the conditions to reach this stage. Nothing new has occurred in the already collapsing Lebanese economy except the government's impotence and its poor practices and decisions.

The economic crisis reflects a political crisis from which the government is suffering. All this is happening against the backdrop of the current conflicts on internal and external political options and over the sharing of sectarian influence and positions, which are the causes of problems in Lebanon.

The main reasons for the current economic and political deterioration are no longer a secret to anyone, even though government officials try hard to insinuate that they are a target of a plot.

In view of what is happening, we emphasize the following points:

1. After observing the conflict within the government, we hold this government fully responsible for the horrible collapse of the economy and living conditions. We call on the government to be strong and fully shoulder its responsibilities.

2. We call on the governor of the central bank to expose those who speculate and plot against the national currency, even if they are government officials. He must prove his innocence and his non- involvement in this financial chaos by exposing the speculators and explaining what has happened. The trustees of the so-called bank secrecy are also trustees of the people's livelihood. These trustees' shortcomings must not be tolerated.

3. After hearing some government official speaking timidly about the presence of an internal or external plot, we call on these officials to call a spade a spade. It is time for them to reveal the facts to the citizens before the crisis deteriorates and reaches the point of no return. We call on these officials to treat matters seriously and to find quick solutions to the starvation and impoverishment of the citizens. This is the responsibility of the government alone.

4. Although we believe the people have the right to express their indignation over the deteriorating conditions, we draw their attention to the fact that restraint is needed. This is true especially because some of those behind the deteriorating conditions are trying to benefit from some of these expressions for their own political purposes.

The popular anger should not turn into a two-edged sword that damages both the general situation and the economic and living structure. Everyone should be aware that a political crisis may be in the wind in addition to the economic crisis. The country cannot handle so many crises.

Buwayz, Iranian Delegation Discuss German Hostages

NC0605131092 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 28 Apr 92 p 13

[Report by George 'Abdini]

[Excerpt] Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, brother of Iranian President Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, visited Beirut a few days ago. He gave the impression that the issue of the two German hostages could be resolved "in the near future," without committing the Iranian authorities to a specific or final date.

On Saturday 18 April, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received a high-level Iranian delegation made up of the Iranian president's brother, Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Mohammad Kazim Khonsari, head of the North Africa and Middle East Desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry; Ahmed Dastmalchian, first counselor of the Iranian Embassy in Damascus and former Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut; and Homayun 'Alizadeh, Iranian charge d'affaires in the Lebanese capital.

Informed sources say that the two-hour meeting brought views closer on the following: First, helping to release the two German hostages before the end of May; second, calming the situation in southern Lebanon by coordinating and consulting with the parties concerned; third, arranging a visit to Beirut soon by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to reciprocate that of Buwayz to Tehran, especially with an invitation already accepted; and fourth, working hard to enhance bilateral relations.

The sources note that regional and international considerations, more than bilateral relations, govern the results. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Comments on Progress in Peace Talks

NC0505172892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 May 92

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after his meeting with members of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks on 5 May—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] The delegation to the bilateral talks briefed me on the substance of the talks and meetings held in Washington. Of course there has been no tangible or essential progress yet. We already said that we did not expect these rounds to achieve such progress. But there

were discussions to clarify a large number of points, which was necessary. Such a stage was needed in order to have such a discussion.

[Correspondent] Has a date been set or proposed for the sixth round of talks?

[Buwayz] We have not yet received any proposal or any invitation to another round of bilateral talks. But the possibility of holding another round in Rome is now under consideration.

[Correspondent] What about the Amman meeting of the foreign ministers?

[Buwayz] The idea of having constant consultations was raised after the Beirut meeting [of the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian foreign ministers]. When we receive an invitation to new talks, then it might become necessary to revive the mechanism of Arab coordination through a meeting, either in Amman or elsewhere.

[Correspondent] Will events in the United States have a bearing on the negotiations?

[Buwayz] It is difficult to speculate about these events and about whether they are merely transient and local or the start of specific developments. I believe that risking speculation right now is out of place.

Israel 'Astonished' at Lebanese Stand on Hizballah

NC0505155892 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Reliable Israeli sources have told our correspondent that they are astonished by the Lebanese Army's stand on Hizballah's current activities in the areas of al-'Ayshiyah, Sujud, al-Rayhan, and (al-Ghuzlan), where Hizballah starts firing rockets and mortars and planting mines.

The Israeli sources indicate that not only does the Lebanese Army fail to stop these activities, but some of its members are participating in them. The sources hope the Lebanese Army will calm the situation in the area to avert any harsh Israeli reaction which could also affect the Lebanese Army itself.

Israeli Planes Overfly Sidon, Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0505161892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] At 1430 today, Israeli enemy planes flew over Sidon, the camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Similar sorties were monitored over al- Nabatiyah.

Damascus Denies Import, Re-Export of Iraqi Oil

JN0605060092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Damascus has officially denied recent press reports that Syria is importing Iraqi oil in violation of the international embargo. A Syrian oil source explained that the increase in national oil exports is due to the investment in new oilfields in Syria, not to the import of Iraqi oil through Jordan and re- exporting it, as PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY, which is specialized in oil affairs, wrote and concluded.

U.S. Terrorism Report, Riots Viewed

JN0405105492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0447 GMT 4 May 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Absence of Objectivity" TISHRIN says: The annual report on terrorism recently published by the U.S. State Department is characterized by nonobjectivity, and reflects inaccuracy and imbalance. What is more dangerous is that those who prepared this report still view the situation in the Middle East with one eye; that is, an Israeli eye. Otherwise, how can we interpret the fact that Syria's name appears on the terrorism list when the only side accusing Syria of terrorism is Israel.

TISHRIN asks: Where is the Israeli terrorism in the U.S. State Department's annual report? Have those who prepared the report not seen this terrorism in its ugliest forms in sound and picture and in full public view when all European and U.S. television stations screened the deliberate bone and limb-breaking operations carried out by Israeli enemy soldiers against the youth of the occupied Arab territories on the pretext that they are part of the intifadah.

TISHRIN says that when Syria called for distinguishing objectively, seriously, and accurately between terrorism and national liberation, it was emphasizing that it is against all forms of terrorism, and that it supports the legitimate resistance of all forms of occupation.

The newspaper says: A few months ago, Shamir admitted and boasted that he carried out terrorist operations when he was leader of the Stern gang. Israel also admitted that it downed the Libyan airplane and killed its passengers, and that it attacked the U.S. ship in the Mediterranean in 1967. Why is all this evidence and these facts absent from the U.S. State Department's report on terrorism, especially since the Zionist leaders and the perpetrators have admitted their responsibility? Does not objectivity necessitate that those who prepared the report abandon the Israeli view and resort to objectivity, truth, and accuracy?

On another subject under the headline "Los Angeles, Whose Responsibility?" AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. State Department report on human rights has coincided with the U.S. judiciary's violation of the rights of black Americans at a time when the United State claims to be concerned over man and his rights.

AL-BA'TH says that the Los Angeles events represent not only a reaction to the injustice of the U.S. judiciary, but also the sufferings of 30 million Americans who are still subjected to racial discrimination.

The paper says that the Los Angeles events have revealed many things that were kept hidden by the U.S. establishment. In the first press comment on these events, it was noted that 70 percent of black Americans below 35 have been arrested once or twice, that 20 million blacks are facing real hunger, and that 10 million of them are permanently homeless.

The paper asks: Who is responsible for neglecting the civil rights of these Americans?

Vice President Receives Lebanon's Karami

JN0505164692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1300 today. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Sudanese Leader al-Bashir Arrives in Damascus

Received by al-Asad

JN0505130092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS] in the Republic of Sudan, arrived in Damascus at 1215 today. Leading those welcoming him at the airport was President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

After resting in the honor lounge, the two presidents headed in an official motorcade to the Tishrin Palace, the great guest's place of residence.

The guest president is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Staff Brigadier General Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad Husayn, RCCNS secretary general; 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister; Dr. al-Muhannadi Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa, industry minister; Dr. Ibrahim 'Ubaydallah, Minister of commerce, cooperation, and supplies; Engineer 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim, adviser to the minister of transport and communications; 'Uthman Dahawi, presidency adviser for political affairs; Ambassador Muhammad 'Abd-al-Da'im Bashir, director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry; and ('Uthman Abu-Jadayri), Sudanese ambassador in Damascus.

At the Tishrin Palace, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir held a meeting that was attended

on the Syrian side by Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr. Salim Yasin, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Industry Minister Antoine Jubran, Syrian Ambassador in Khartoum Muhammad al-Mahamid. The talks were attended on the Sudanese side by the official accompanying delegation.

Talks Held at Tishrin Palace

JN0505144992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al- Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, held a meeting at Tishrin Palace soon after Lieutenant General al-Bashir's arrival in Damascus at noon today. [passage omitted listing those attending the meeting]

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir praised Syria's firm pan-Arab position under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in defending pan-Arab causes and the Arab nation's future.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent before leaving Khartoum for Damascus today, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that his visit falls within the framework of consultations between the two fraternal countries on pan-Arab, regional, and international issues.

Al-Bashir on Trade Relations

JN0505174392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, held a meeting at Tishrin Palace soon after Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's arrival in Damascus today. [passage omitted covered in second referent item detailing reception details and listing the Sudanese delegation]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent before leaving Khartoum for Damascus today, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that his visit falls within the framework of consultations between the two fraternal countries on pan-Arab, regional, and international issues.

Al-Bashir added: In light of this, the meetings of the leaders of the two countries are important at this stage because they are aimed at consultations, coordinating positions, and stressing the nation's unity and interests. He highly valued Syria's pan-Arab, principled positions under President Hafiz al-Asad, and said: These pan-Arab, principled positions have never hesitated to preserve the Arab nation, its future, and its rights. We are looking forward to further coordination and cooperation with fraternal Syria in all areas.

Responding to a question on the condition of fraternal relations between Syria and Sudan, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: Our relations are good, and we are trying to promote them in various areas. In the cultural area, particularly academic areas, we have a large number of Sudanese students studying at Syrian universities. We have decided to Arabize the system of higher education. Our brothers in Syria are ahead of us in this particular area. We are also looking forward to cooperation in Arabization, and we are planning to start technical education and its Arabization. Our brothers in Syria have extensive experience in the area of technical education. We hope to benefit from this experience.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir also said: We have had very large-scale trade cooperation in the past, and we want to restore it and make it even better than it was before. We are drafting a plan to encourage the Sudanese private sector and Sudanese merchants to go to Syria and see what it is like firsthand.

Regarding cooperation in the area of transportation, al-Bashir said: As part of the mutual transportation agreement, a shipping route was opened between Port Sudan and Latakia to transport both passengers and goods. There is also cooperation in health and medical areas, as well as in the exchange of health information and expertise.

Lt. Gen. concluded by saying that there is a great deal of opportunity for cooperation between the two fraternal countries, and there are large numbers of agreements which need coordination.

Al-Asad, al-Bashir Hold Closed Session

JN0505174992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1708 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Damascus, 5 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir resumed their meetings at 1815 today with a closed session of talks at the People's Palace.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam joined the meeting later.

Discussions dealt with developments in the region, the peace process, the situation in the Arab arena, and bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' Receives Sudanese Counterpart

JN0505193492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul. The Syrian and Sudanese ambassadors attended the meeting.

Discussions focused on the Arab state of affairs from all its aspects, the situation in the Horn of Africa, and bilateral relations.

Information Minister Says Israel Preparing To Attack

JN0505175592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has accused Israel of preparing for a military attack on Syria, affirming that his country seeks ways of enabling itself to protect its territory.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Salman said that the media campaign being waged against Syrian forces by Israeli diplomats and military officials, as well as by key figures in the U.S. Jewish lobby, is just to pave the way for a military operation against Syria.

The Syrian information minister did not provide any details about the eventual Israeli aggression. He affirmed that Syria exerts constant efforts to upgrade the preparedness of the Syrian army in terms of quantity and quality, especially since the world does not deal with the region with a comprehensive approach and does not take into consideration the fact that Israel possesses a nuclear capability, not to mention various weapons of mass destruction.

Columnist on Electricity Rationing, Power Cuts

JN0505110792 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 8

["People Talk" column by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sulayman: "Rationing: for How Long?"]

[Excerpts] Before winter and the rainy season, people were hoping that once water became available, the problem of rationing and electricity cuts would be solved. This year witnessed particularly heavy rainfall, and in most areas rainfall was above the annual average. However, the problem of electricity rationing has not been resolved. The situation continues to be the same, if not worse, and it appears that for the time being, at least, there will be no change.

The citizens are waiting, and they do not know for how long. They could be waiting for a long time— until the completion and operation of an electricity generating station. Hopefully, once the Tishrin thermal station in the al-Rabi' valley, which will have a capacity of 400 megawatts, becomes partially or fully operational, there will be an end to the daily suffering of citizens. The completion of this station has been delayed. It should have been operational early in 1990. We are now in 1992 and work is still going on, and only one of the units is expected to be completed by the end of this year. [passage omitted]

The Electricity Authority has made things worse by doubling the cost of electricity in the belief that this would reduce electricity consumption. This has not happened. How long will this situation continue? Can't the Authority think of better solutions?

Afghanistan

Hezb-e, Interim Government Negotiate Cease-Fire

LD0505173792 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 5, IRNA—A representative of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami party, 'Abdol Qader Karyab, told reporters here today that he is hopeful peace would return to the Afghan capital shortly. Earlier on Tuesday, said Karyab, he met with a group of officials of the provisional government in Kabul where he discussed a projected ceasefire between his party and the ruling faction in Afghanistan.

Artillery duels raged in Kabul even as Karyab was speaking, but the Hezb-e Eslami official expressed hope that the shelling of residential quarters in Kabul would soon come to an end. According to Karyab, on Monday Abdur-Rasul Sayyaf and other mujahideen leaders conferred with Hekmatyar on their way to Kabul from Pakistan. He said differences between the various Muslim groups would shortly be solved.

Addressing himself to the forces of his party Tuesday he called on them to exercise self-control and toleration and thereby pave the way for the implementation of an integrated ceasefire.

In related news, member of the 50-man Interim Council, Yasser, who is also Sayyaf's deputy, said Tuesday that the differences among the various mujahideen groups were being gradually solved. He said a solid ceasefire would take effect Wednesday. He observed that certain viewpoints of Hekmatyar had been considered as a starting point at the talks.

In the second round of talks scheduled for Tuesday afternoon the parties to the talks are to discuss the composition of the government and the ways and means for the participation of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party in the political system in Afghanistan.

The Iran-based Islamic Unity Party has also taken an objection to the composition of the Afghan interim government.

Commission Arrives for Talks

BK0605042592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0419 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 6 (AFP)—A mediatory commission sent by opposition mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has arrived in Kabul for talks with the interim government, Radio Kabul said Wednesday.

Announcement of the arrival of the team, headed by Kadir Karyab, coincided with an unusual lull in fighting in the capital. The city had been blistered by rocket and artillery fire for the past two days, causing heavy civilian casualties.

The radio gave few details of the commission, but said it had come to Kabul under the auspices of commander 'Abdol Haq and that it would discuss the position of security forces around Kabul.

Tuesday's heavy shelling by guerrillas of Hekmatyar's fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami movement left 40 people dead and 200 injured by official count in this city of 1.5 million people, after 13 were reported killed and 74 wounded on Monday.

Earlier Wednesday the radio broadcast an appeal by Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to government employees to return to work.

Mas'ud, an arch foe of Hekmatyar, was confirmed as defence minister, the only permanent appointment in a cabinet of acting ministers formed by interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi Tuesday.

Hekmatyar has demanded that Uzbek militia aligned with Mas'ud's Jam'yiat-e Eslami leave the capital.

He has also demanded that Kabul's security be handed over to commanders from within the capital's province, implying that Mas'ud should leave and return to his northern base.

Kabul region mojahedin commander 'Abdol Haq, whose forces have stayed neutral in the fighting between Hekmatyar and Mas'ud factions, said Tuesday negotiations were under way to arrange a compromise.

Cease-Fire 'In Force'

BK0605063092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 6 (AFP)—A ceasefire is in force, acting Afghan Information Minister Mohammad Siddique Chakri told AFP here Wednesday.

Chakri said the ceasefire agreement was signed earlier Wednesday, but gave no further details.

The ceasefire in Kabul came after two weeks of intense fighting in the city between forces loyal to holdout rebel leader Golboddin Hekmatyar and the interim mojahedin government headed by Sebgatollah Mojaddedi.

"A ceasefire was signed today. It is in force," Chakri told AFP.

The announcement came after Kabul Radio announced that a negotiating team from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami headed by Kadir Karyab, was in city and discussing arrangements for the security of Kabul with the interim government.

Word of the ceasefire agreement appeared to have filtered throughout this city of 1.5 million people, and Wednesday morning residents, office goers and even street cleaners poured out of their homes.

Hekmatyar has been shelling the capital heavily in the past two days, raising fears of a second civil war in Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Spokesman in Pakistan Denounces Mojaddedi

BK0505160292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 5 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin group demanded Tuesday that interim Afghan President Sebgatollah Mojaddedi step down, accusing him of reneging on promises. Qaribur Rahman Said, director of the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) and spokesman for the faction in Pakistan, told reporters that the Hezb, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, was "worried from the very beginning" that Mojaddedi would remain in power for two years."

Mojaddedi, who was to hold his post for about two months, said earlier Tuesday his countrymen were "insisting" he stay in office for two years pending general elections.

Mojaddedi should leave the presidency to Borhanoddin Rabbani, the political leader of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, "who has the legal authority," Said told AFP. Mojaddedi "will not fulfill his promises," he said. "We are even against him staying for two months."

The Hezb spokesman said a Rabbani envoy, Said Norollah Emad, met for two hours Tuesday with Hekmatyar at an unspecified venue "near Kabul," and handed him a letter from Rabbani.

Said also ruled out any ceasefire between the Hezb and the militia loyal to Uzbek commander 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, as Kabul came under heavy rocket and artillery fire for a second straight day.

"The attack started against the Hezb in the south and southwest. The Hezb is defending itself," he said.

Militia forces allied to Jam'iyat commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud "are firing missiles everywhere to create terror and panic among residents," he said, adding "the Hezb is not firing on residential areas."

Hekmatyar Forces Intensify Shelling on Kabul

LD0505144992 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 5, IRNA—Golboddin Hekmatyar forces intensified the shelling of the Afghanistan capital late this morning as a result of which many houses were destroyed in the eastern part of the city. The situation in the eastern part of the capital is also critical, according to IRNA reporters.

The shelling of the capital began from day-break on Monday and official figures put the number of victims at 15 killed and 72 wounded. Observers, however, said more than 30 people have been killed. Meanwhile, more than 70 people, wounded by the shrapnels were confined in a hospital alone.

The shelling of the capital was intensified while two representatives of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party were busy negotiating with the interim government on the party's contribution in the future government.

Yasser, one of the members of the 50-man council, says current disputes with the Islamic Party is being solved. He made it clear that some of the Hekmatyar's demands have been accepted by the council and that ceasefire will be established from Wednesday morning.

This optimism caused some of the departing Kabul inhabitants to change their mind temporarily.

Mojahedin Leaders Arrive in Kabul From Peshawar

Convoy Greeted 'Enthusiastically'

LD0505160592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, leader of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan; Esteemed Professor Gholam 'Abdol Rasul Seyyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan; Esteemed Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami of Afghanistan; and Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan arrived in Kabul from Peshawar last night at around 2000. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that hundreds of vehicles accompanied the mojahedin leaders on the path of righteousness from Peshawar to Kabul, along with hundreds of mojahedin on the path of justice.

Residents throughout Peshawar saw off Esteemed Professor Rabbani and other jehad leaders who departed on the morning of 4 May and reached Torkham at lunchtime.

The mojahedin council in Nangarhar Province enthusiastically welcomed the mojahedin leaders on the path of righteousness and justice with happiness reflected on everyone's faces and shouts of: God is Great! Esteemed (Mowlawi Sakhi Dad Khalid), a member of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami executive council, addressed a ceremony welcoming Esteemed Professor Ostad Rabbani and other jehad leaders to Torkham, welcoming the jehad council leaders to the country and wishing them a safe journey on behalf of everyone at the ceremony. A guard of honor was also present at Torkham to welcome the esteemed jehad leaders and to perform the welcoming ceremony service. Esteemed Ostad Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani spoke briefly at the meeting of the members of the mojahedin council of Nangarhar Province, the Muslim and religious people of Nangarhar, and the mojahedin on the path of justice and thanked the Islamic State of Pakistan's leaders for their

assistance to the mojahedin during their stay in that country and hoped for good and (?neighborly) relations between the two Muslim countries.

When the convoy of the mojahedin on the path of justice arrived at Jalalabad city, elders, leaders, tradesmen, employees of departments and establishments, and other Muslim and religious people welcomed the jehad leaders with flowers, great enthusiasm, and shouts of: God is Great!

Our Muslim and religious people lined various sections of the Jalalabad-Kabul highway and welcomed Esteemed Professor Rabbani and other jehad leaders with shouts of: God is Great!

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and other mojahedin leaders accompanying the convoy of mojahedin brothers arrived in Kabul at around 2030 on 4 May and were welcomed at the gate of Kabul city by jehad council members; a large number of mojahedin brothers in Kabul; and Kabul citizens, including elders and intellectuals. Residents lining Pol-e Charkhi road welcomed them with great enthusiasm and pleasure to Kabul, the capital of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The convoy of mojahedin leaders includes a number of trucks carrying food.

Mojaddedi Receives Leaders 5 May

LD0505190492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received this afternoon in Golkhana Palace Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, amir of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami of Afghanistan, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammed Asef Mohseni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, and the executive delegation of Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Professor Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi first spoke about the satisfactory restoration of security, the military situation, and measures taken by the Islamic State of Afghanistan to supply Kabul citizens with basic materials and other necessities. He added: The agitators have disrupted the peaceful life of the people in the city during the past few days by firing missiles, and a number of families suffered losses as a result of this action.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, following its Islamic and humane policy, is against such terrorist actions. Following the recent resolute and all-round support of mojahedin and all religious and Muslim people of Afghanistan, in addition to the devout defenders of Kabul who are standing up for the defense of the Islamic State and people of the Kabul city, the commanders, mojahedin, and people of Wardak, Ghazni, Paktia, and Paktika, have contacted me and expressed their readiness to crush the agitators and saboteurs and to restore peace in Kabul and throughout Afghanistan. [Word indistinct] the agitators are an isolated minority and they no longer can continue their anti-Islamic and anti-humane action [words indistinct].

Esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, amir of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, then spoke briefly, saying: No agitator or seditious elements can prevent the measures taken by the Islamic State of Afghanistan for the restoration of durable peace and security. The mojahedin and the leadership delegation of the Harakat-e Enqlab-e Eslami of Afghanistan are ready to discharge their duties [words indistinct] in light of the instructions and guidance of the Islamic State of Afghanistan vis-a-vis the Muslim people and Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Mojaddedi Meets Call for Islamic Unity Delegation

LD0505180692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received a delegation of Dayia Ettehad-e Eslami [Call for Islamic Unity] of Afghan mojahedin headed by Mohammad Amin Weqad at Golkhana Palace at 1200. (?The delegation) offered congratulations on the victory of the Islamic revolution and on his appointment as president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State and expressed its cooperation with the Islamic State. They spoke about the unity of the mojahedin, the participation of all jihadi groups in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and ensuring all-out peace in the country.

Mas'ud, Jam'iyat-e Eslami Leader Discuss Security

LD0505165392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, leader of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan, met today with Esteemed General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

During this meeting, General Ahamd Shah Mas'ud shed light on the military situation of the country, especially in the areas around Kabul. Talks also were conducted on security measures in the country and in Kabul.

Former Army Officers Offer 'Conditional' Support

BK0505092792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 May 92 p 11

[Text] Peshawar—Former Afghan Army officers in Peshawar have offered conditional support to the Mojahedin interim government provided the militias are expelled from Kabul and power is "transferred" to mojahedin and not "shared."

"If we are to share power with Parchami communists now, why did we reject a similar offer from Hafezollah Amin," remarked Brigadier Mohammad Gul Aryubwal

[name as published]. The meeting of the Afghan Army officers' Showra [assembly] held here on Monday was well attended by former brigadiers, colonels lieutenants [as published] and former Afghan Air Force officers. Estimates put the member of registered Afghan Army officers and "jawans" [soldiers] at more than five thousands, who defected to Mojahedin following the invasion of Red Army troops in Afghanistan.

He said they were willing to serve their nation if the despicable Dostam militia were expelled from Kabul and the reign of power was transferred to Mojahedin rather than forcing them into sharing power with communists. He accused Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan and Benon Sevan of dividing Afghanistans on ethnic, racial and sectarian basis.

Whithout naming any mojahedin leader, Brig Mohammad Gul accused them of fighting for power rather than caring for the fate and integrity of Afghanistan. He thought it would have been better if a comprehensive plan was evolved for the transfer of power to mojahedin before asking Najibollah to step down in favour of a mojahedin interim government. "Those who burnt our homes and hearths have now been assigned to protect Kabul," he remarked while alluding the Gelam Jam militia of Gen Rashid Dostam.

The former Afghan officers residing in Pakistan, he maintained, not only had the ability to replace the militias but would also provide professional expertise in organising a new Afghan Army which he stressed must be founded on non-partisan and non-political grounds.

Pledging his commitment to the unity, integrity, sovereignty, and independence of Afghanistan, he said the former army personnel would extend every kind of cooperation and would not spare any sacrifice for their homeland. He announced he would send a message to the effect to Prof Mojaddedi and would wait for a few days before chalking out future course of action.

Iran's Support Sought for Islamic Government

LD0505172492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan, under the leadership of Golboddin Hekmatyar, has welcomed the message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, guardian of the cause of Muslims, regarding the problem of Afghanistan and has called for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

According to the report of the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the [Hezb-e Eslami] statement, while offering appreciation for the timely message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, says: We always feel we are very close to the Iranian brothers, we would like to have the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in bringing to final fruition the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan—a revolution on the path of which the blood of more than 1.5 million innocent people of that country has been spilt.

Mojaddedi Receives Messages of Congratulations

LD0505075892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent a message of gratitude to His Excellency Prince Turki Bin-Faysal in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, for his visit to Kabul. In the message Mojaddedi expresses his gratitude for the resolute support of the leadership and fraternal people of Saudi Arabia for the legitimate cause of the people of Afghanistan, and it is hoped that this fraternal country will help us to reconstruct the country. [passage omitted]

His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the presidential majlis of Yemen, has sent a message of congratulations to Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on his appointment in these positions. Expressing congratulations, the message says that peace, stability, progress, and lasting calm is returning to the Afghan nation under the new government.

Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has sent a message of congratulations to Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghtollah in Kabul on his appointment as president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Expressing cordial congratulations, the message says that they share the happiness of the new state and the people of Aghanistan for the establishment of an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned state in Afghanistan.

Sadruddin Agha Khan, assistant secretary general of the United Nations and coordinator of UN humanitarian assistance, has sent a message of congratulations to Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah, president of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, with the following text:

Allow me to congratulate you and offer my best wishes to you on this historic occasion. May almighty God give the brave people of Afghanistan lasting peace and [words indistinct] and social needs. I am confident that the international community will not spare its generous assistance to heal the wounds and to embark on the reconstruction of your country. [passage indistinct]

Najibollah Allies, Relatives Allege Harassment

BK0605094192 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 6 May 92 p 1

[Text] The close allies and relatives of the former Afghan president, Dr Najibollah reportedly reached Peshawar and took refuge in Nasir Bagh Camp on late Monday night, reports INP. [Expansion unknown]

According to reports, 35 members of eight Afghan families from Kabul reached Peshawar with their belongings in two pick-up vans and one Mercedes Benz.

Well-placed sources quoted the refugees as having alleged that after the take over of Mojahedin interim council, a new wave of harassment, torture and kidnapping had been initiated against the progressive Pashtun political workers and close relatives of Dr. Najibollah.

They feared that the number of refugees fleeing Kabul could increase with the worsening of situation in the Afghan capital. "The fundamentalists would go back to Kabul while the others would flee away," apprehended the refugee families.

Iranian Aid Sent to Nimroz Flood Victims

LD0505132192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] In the wake of flooding in Nimroz Province in Afghanistan, Red Cresent helicopters have carried out 150 flights during the past 48 hours, transporting over 60 tonnes of aid to that province. According to IRNA's correspondent, the task of distributing the aid, which includes 500 tents, large quantities of bread, tinned fruit and vegetables and other basic necessities, began today in the town of Zaranj through the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Cresent relief workers.

It is being said that over 5,000 houses have been damaged in Nimroz Province and about 30,000 people have lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the flooding [figures as heard]. As a result of the advance of water in Nimroz Province, all link roads are closed and relief operations can only be carried out by air.

India

'Unidentified Gunmen' Fire on Kuwaiti Diplomat

LD0505151592 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1316 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 May (KUNA)—Two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on the car carrying Mit'ib al-Rumayh, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in India, and the adviser at the Egyptian Embassy in New Delhi today. An official Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry source told KUNA that the two unidentified gunmen fired two bullets at the car carrying the two diplomats and that both diplomats were unhurt in the attack, which took place at 1200 Indian time. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Ambassador to India 'Abd-al-Razzaq Razuqi was in Bhutan today to present his letter of credence as Kuwait's ambassador to Bhutan.

Envoys Escape Unhurt; Manhunt Launched

BK0605032692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti Embassy in New Delhi, Mit'ib al-Rumayh, escaped an attempt on his life when two motorcycle-borne youths fired at his car near Sarojini Nagar yesterday. Mr. al-Rumayh was returning to the Embassy after attending a meeting at the Arab League office. The window panes of his car were shattered. The Egyptian counsellor, Mr. Muhammad Najib, travelling with Mr. al-Rumayh, was also not hurt. The security around the Kuwaiti Embassy has been tightened and a massive hunt launched to nab the culprits.

Communications Minister's Motorcade Attacked

BK0505151092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The communications minister, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, had a narrow escape in Srinagar today when militants fired at his motorcade. He was returning from Lalbazaar after offering his condolences to some of the families who had lost their kith and kin in yesterday's house collapse.

The security personnel escorting the minister returned the fire. Seven persons were injured in the incident. Out of them, four later succumbed to their injuries.

Delhi 'Will Not Succumb' On Russian Missile Deal

BK0505164092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The government has assured Rajya Sabha that it will not succumb to pressures from any quarter which affects the country's economic and political soverignty. This was stated by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, while responding to the members' anguish over the reported U.S. warning to India and Russia that Washington will impose penalty against them if the proposed transfer of cryogenic engine technology to India is not canceled. He said the government will do everything to protect the interests of the country.

The issue figured in both houses of parliament. Raising the matter through a special mention in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Kapil Verma, Congress-I, said that the U.S. threat is an interference in the internal affairs of the country. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, charged the United States of opposing the sale of rocket engine as America does not want India to be self-reliant in information technology.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha during zero hour, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, and others demanded that India should register a strong protest with the U.S. Government and the opinion of the Third World countries should be mobilized to safeguard their interests. The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K.

Advani, lauded Russia for announcing that it would stand by its commitment to transfer cryogenic engine technology to India. There was also a demand that India should cancel the proposed joint naval exercises with the United States. The Janata Dal and left front members complained that Doordarshan [television] did not cover their demonstration at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi yesterday held in protest against the U.S. action.

Prithvi Missile 'Successfully' Test Fired 5 May

BK0605064292 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] India's sophisticated medium-range surface-to-surface missile—Prithvi—was successfully test fired today, following its charted course and falling at a pre-determined place. Prithvi was to be test fired yesterday, but the launch had to be postponed because of bad weather. It was fired at 1605 [1035 GMT] today from the the Interim Test Range at Chandipur on sea, 12 km from Balasore in Orissa. This is the seventh test launch of the indigenously built missile. The first test firing was conducted on February 25, 1988. Scientists, who were present at the launch site, said the missile, with a range of 150 to 250 km, is expected to be inducted into the Army some time later this year.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has congratulated the scientists and engineers involved in the project.

[Begins recording] [Pawar] This is the seventh test firing. It has successfully met the objectives set for it. We are planning to conduct more tests on our route to production and induction of Prithvi into our services. [end recording]

Iran

Azerbaijani, Armenian Presidents Arrive for Talks

LD0605102992 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Acting president of the neighboring Azerbaijan Republic Yagub Mamedov arrived in Tehran Wednesday morning at the head of a delegation on a two-day visit and was greeted by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Mamedov is in Tehran to attend the tripartite talks, to be attended by the presidents of Iran and Armenia, aimed at settling the Karabakh issue, disputed between the two neighboring republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. He is accompanied by the prime minister and ministers of foreign affairs, defence and health.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is due in the Iranian capital this afternoon for the talks.

President Rafsanjani who welcomed Mamedov at Tehran's Mehrabad International Aiport said that the visit of the heads of the two republics will be beneficial for the settlement of the Karabakh dispute.

Speaking upon arrival, Mamedov praised efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a bid to restore peace between the two newly-independent republics. He expressed hope that the Tehran summit will be effective in settling the dispute.

The Azerbaijani official described Iran's mediation efforts as sincere adding that they are indicative of Iran's friendly attitude towards her neighbors.

Mamedov expressed hope that the summit will provide a solution to the Karabakh dispute and that his visit will pave the way for further consolidation of Tehran-Baku relations.

More on the Karabakh issue, he said as a first step the three sides must sign a document in which the two warring sides pledge not to violate the cease-fire. He requested Iran to monitor the cease-fire process.

Mamedov said exchange of those captured in the clashes, return of the inhabitants of Karabakh, withdrawal of military forces from the area and reopening of roads are prerequisites for restoration of peace.

"People of Azerbaijan and Armenia are neighbors and must sooner or later settle their disputes. The sooner the dispute is solved, the better off the two republics and the two nations are," he said.

The Iranian president said the previous negotiations have been productive and added that conditions now are right for ending the hostilities. Settling the issue at the level of heads of state will further guarantee a lasting peace.

He stressed that in the absence of peace, the two republics will not be able to embark on reconstruction efforts to rebuild their countries. "Iran is pursuing efforts to settle the issue as soon as possible." He added that both sides must practice patience and self-restraint.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi was engaged in intensive peace efforts to bring peace to Karabakh in March and April shuttling between Baku and Yerevan.

Rafsanjani Statement on Talks

LD0605103992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 May 92

[Statement by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on upcoming talks with Azerbaijan and Armenian officials to solve Karabakh problem on 6 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Of course, the presence of the gentlemen here can lead to [the solution of] many problems, including and above all, the expansion of relations. That is, we may expand our cooperation, shaping it in in such a way as to

make it possible for all the region to benefit from such relations in the best manner.

Finding a solution to the problem of Karabakh is the principal purpose of the meeting, however. Naturally, as a result of the talks carried out and understandings already reached, there exists good ground. Here now the presidents must talk face to face; if the problems are solved at this level, then such solution are better guaranteed to remove the difficulty and bring about perpetual peace.

We believe that without tranquility and peace in the region, it is not possible, especially for these two countries which are entangled with each other, to tackle reconstruction tasks and to make up for their falling behind in the past. We are sincerely interested to see that they find the opportunity for reconstruction so that they may be able to arrive at prosperity and solve their problems and strengthen their communications in their post-independence era. We will do so, God willing, with patience.

Gas Sales to Armenia Discussed

LD0505214992 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Iran and Armenia today reviewed prospects for promoting mutual trade exchanges and cooperation in economic and industrial areas, including Iran's sale of natural gas to the Armenian Republic.

Grounds for the business and economic exchanges between the two countries are now being studied by a group of Armenian and Iranian experts who are members of five working committees. The committees have offered provisional cooperation proposals in the area of commerce, transportation, oil and gas, banking, and customs administration.

The proposals of the five committees are now being reviewed at the second round of talks between Iranian and Armenian officials here. The Armenian delegation to Tehran is headed by Presidential Adviser Vahan Papazian.

Iran and Armenia have signed the draft of a protocol which provides for building a bridge across the River Araks for transport purposes. The river forms a common boundary between Iran and her northern neighbors Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The two countries have also agreed to minimize customs formalities in the process of clearing out mutual commodities through the border.

The committees continue work in Tehran and details of the agreement between the two countries are expected to be released at the conclusion of the current talks.

Papazian Meets Economy Minister

NC0605070392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] An Armenian economic delegation led by Papazian, who advises the Armenian president on economic issues, is currently in Iran to expand the scope of bilateral economic relations. The delegation held its second round of talks with the Iranian team, which was headed by Finance and Economy Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh, yesterday.

During the talks, which took place on the eve of the Armenian president's visit to Tehran, the two sides discussed preliminary agreements on cooperation in various fields, including the exchange of goods, gas exports, transportation, banking, and customs matters.

Minister Calls for Promoting Ties

LD0605103392 Tehran IRNA in English 0648 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 6, IRNA—Armenian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs Herand Bagratian [name as received] Tuesday called for promotion of Tehran-Yerevan ties.

He made the remark in a meeting with First Secretary of the Iranian Embassy Hoseyn Zeinoddin on the eve of the visit to Tehran of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. He is expected in the Iranian capital Wednesday.

Zeinoddin also handed over a message from Iran's Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh for Bagratian.

Stressing cooperation between the two countries, Bagratian invited Nurbakhsh to visit Armenia. He also expressed hope that the two neighboring countries could take effective steps towards promotion of economic ties.

Shushtari Meets Azerbaijain's Babayev

LD0505162392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Babayev and his accompanying delegation met Justice Minister Shushtari and a number of Ministry deputies and officials on 4 May. He expressed the hope that his trip to Iran will lead to the signing of an agreement on judicial and legal matters. Justice Minister Shushtari said: In light of our shared culture, the two countries can have close cooperation. He added: Our country has made a great deal of effort since the Islamic revolution's victory to draw up, compile, and implement Islamic laws, and it can be said without hesitation that Islamic Iran is the first country to try and base its legal and judicial regulations on Islam. He expressed the hope that the Azerbaijani presecutor

general's visit will lead to the expansion of ties, especially on judicial and legal matters.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

LD0505213792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Iran and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran on judicial and legal matters. Mr Murat Babayev, the Azeri prosecutor-general, said to our correspondent: We are attempting to implement Islamic precepts and laws that conform to the culture and modus vivendi of the Muslim people of Azerbaijan. For that reason all the current legal and judicial laws and regulations in Iran are to be translated into Azeri and placed at the disposal of the Azeri people and officials.

Mr Musavi-Tabrizi, the state prosecutor-general, said in an interview with our correspondent: The two countries will cooperate under an agreement about the exchange of legal experts and the implementation of Islamic laws.

Further on Trade Accord With Turkmenistan

LD0305092792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The first vice president of Turkmenistan, Atta Charyyev, speaking at Mashhad airport last night said the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is the expansion of ties between the two countries, as well as meeting and conferring with our country's authorities. He added: During this visit, with the coordination work already carried out, an agreement will be signed with the Janbazan va Mostaz'afan Fund of the Islamic Revolution on the exchange of cotton and foodstuffs worth $37 million.

Referring to the multi-billion dollar agreement on oil and gas, dam construction, agriculture, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, he said: Turkmenistan has never before concluded agreements of such vast scope with any other country.

Commercial Agreements With Turkmenistan Detailed

Trucking Accord Signed

LD0405212692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] With the signing of a new agreement between Iran and Turkmenistan, Iranian trucks will now travel to Central Asian countries via Turkmenistan. In the memorandum of understanding signed today by Turkmen Deputy Vice President Ata Chariyev and Transport Minister Sa'idi-Kia, the ground has been laid for even greater cooperation. Iranian trucks travelling to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan may now take specified routes in Turkmenistan. Turkmen trucks may use specified routes in Iran to travel to Turkey, Pakistan, or southern ports. Truck traffic will be subject to the laws of the two countries, and commercial and customs facilities have also been forseen to expedite the traffic.

Khorasan To Build Hotel in Turkmenistan

LD0405083292 Tehran IRNA in English 0642 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., May 4, IRNA—To promote Iran- Turkmenistan trade and cultural relations, private sector of Khorasan Province is to build an international hotel and a chain department store in Ashkhabad, capital of Turkmenistan, said Deputy Governor General of the province Mohammad Javad Mohammadi-Zadeh here Sunday.

Mohammadi-Zadeh made the remark after returning from Ashkhabad which he visited at the invitation of the Turkmenistan vice-president.

The hotel will be built by the hotel owners of Mashhad and the department store by "Shahed Company", affiliated to the "Shahid (Martyr) Foundation."

He said according to the agreements reached telephone links and border crossing will soon start between this northeastern province and the neighboring republic of Turkmenistan.

Mohammadi-Zadeh said that both sides decided to remove customs duties on buses and trucks of the international transportation company at the border checkpoints and to promote tourism.

An agreement was also reached on opening Iran and Turkmenistan culture houses in the provincial capital of Mashhad and the republican capital of Ashkhabad, said Mohammadi-Zadeh. He added that opening of consulates of Iran and Turkmenistan in Mashhad and Merv will further facilitate across the border visits.

$34 Million in Food Exports Planned

LD0405183192 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The Janbazan and Mostazafan (Oppressed and War Disabled) Foundation has agreed to export foodstuffs with a value of dollars 34 million to Turkmenistan.

According to the agreement between the two countries, Iran is to purchase 20,000 tonnes of long fiber cotton from Turkmenistan within six months and sell it in the international market.

The agreement was reached here yesterday between Iranian officials and Turkmen Minister of Foreign Trade Avdy Kuliyev, said the head of Agriculture Department of the foundation, Ala'ddin Husayn Ayatollah-Zadeh at a news conference today.

He said according to a seperate agreement signed in Mashhad (Khorasan Province of Iran) a few months ago, it had been predicted that the foundation increase food exports to Turkmenistan to 100,000 tonnes annually which would go into effect from June 1, 1992.

Joint investment on agriculture and fisheries are among other areas of cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan, he said.

Report on Nuclear Warheads 'Without Foundation'

LD0405151592 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Vienna, May 4, IRNA—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not any information on Iran's acquisition of nuclear warheads, according to the Vienna-based agency.

A spokesman for the agency Hans Meyer referring to a news report in the English language weekly newspaper "THE EUROPEAN" (30 April - 3 May) under the headline "Iran has N-bomb" said Monday that the Islamic republic is a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Meyer said, "it is up to other parties to the NPT especially those who have intelligence to inform the IAEA".

"THE EUROPEAN" claimed that "Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as 'missing' from the newly-independent Republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

"A top-secret report from Boris Yeltsin's newly-formed Russian Intelligence Service was recently sent to the United States Central Intelligence Agency, revealing Iran's acquisition of the missing nuclear weapons," the weekly said.

The Islamic republic's permanent representative to the IAEA Mohammed Sadegh Ayotollahi rejected the news report as without foundation. He told IRNA today that under a safeguards agreement which Iran has with the agency the IAEA carries out regular inspections in Iran.

A four-member team from IAEA headed by Jon Jennekens, head of the Department of Safeguards visited Iran in February at the invitation of the president of the atomic energy organization of Iran to inspect nuclear research facilities and sites.

The team reported that the activities reviewed by it at the facilities and sites were found to be consistent with the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The team inspected sites which mischievous media reports had described as "uranium enrichment" centres.

'Victory-3' War Games Completed Successfully

LD0405173992 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormuzgan), May 4, IRNA—The Victory-3 war games staged on either side of the Hormuz Strait in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters, ended on a note of success today.

Military obeservers said the 10-stage manuevers were carried out according to the latest military standards and in light of the experiences gained during the imposed war.

The three forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) achieved their desired objectives during the maneuvers, including training programmes, testing the military prowess and coordination between the Army and IRGC forces.

Victory-3 war games, the largest of their kind, started on April 25 over an area of 10,000 nautical square miles in Iran's southern territorial waters.

Oman Grants Customs Discount to Iranian Ships

LD0105101692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Omani government is giving a 25 percent discount in its customs and ports tariffs to Iranian ships to help expand its economic relations with Iran. Omani Communications Minister, Salim Bin-'Abdallah al-Ghazali, who was in the Port of Qaboos for the inaugural services of the first Islamic Republic of Iran shipping line, was interviewed by IRIB. He referred to the fact that the Omani government is ready to create the necessary ground for import-export and port affairs and called on Iranian and Omani merchants to activate commercial and import-export activities of the two countries by using the existing opportunities and resources.

The Omani Communications Minister also expressed the hope that the shipping line will be a means to exchange and carry Iranian and Persian Gulf southern littoral states' goods between those states and the Muslim-inhabited former Soviet republics.

According to the report, the first shipping line between Iran and Oman was inaugurated after the arrival of the "Hormuz-26" in Muscat. The ship belongs to the Valfajr-e Hasht Shipping Company.

Iraqi 'Procrastination' Clouding POW Swap

LD0405175392 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—A cloud of ambiguity is hanging over the issue of exchange of war prisoners between Iran and Iraq mainly because of Baghdad's policy of procrastination.

Following talks with Iranian officials, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initially set March 15 and then May 1, as the date for exchange of the remaining war prisoners still held in Iran and Iraq, but the date passed by and nothing occurred.

The Iraqi regime's accusations that Iran is delaying the release of Iraqi war prisoners, have been denied by the ICRC.

The charges were repeated by Baghdad on May 3 but were flatly refuted by the ICRC spokesman.

The POWs swap is said to have been the basis of an agreement already reached by Tehran, Baghdad and ICRC, but Baghdad still refuses to acknowledge that it is holding other Iranian war prisoners on its soil.

According to political observers, there is evidence that at least 1,500 Iranian POWs are still being held in Iraq. Any success in reactivating the POW exchange process depends on Iraq complying with the tripartite agreement involving Iran and the ICRC.

It is necessary for ICRC to urge Iraq not to deny holding Iranian war prisoners in order to speed up repatriation of POWs.

Baghdad Pounding Southern Iraq With Artillery

LD0505212692 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), May 5, IRNA—The roar of heavy artillery was heard throughout last night in the Iranian border area of Dasht-e-Azadegan, as the Baghdad Army continued its barrage against the Arabs in southern Iraq.

Explosions were at times deafening which indicated the intensity of the Ba'thist forces' attack which has reportedly killed several Iraqi people.

According to an informed source the Baghdad Army is killing Arabs in Shi'ite populated southern Iraq who have taken refuge in the marshlands of al-Ammara, Basra and al-Nasiriyah.

He said Ba'thist forces have recently stepped up their heavy artillery attacks in the south especially against the marsh Arabs.

Newspaper Reports Death of Iraqi 'Terrorist'

LD0605104192 Tehran IRNA in English 0627 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Leader of an Iraqi terrorist and espionage group who was behind several bomb explosions in the Iranian cities including the capital in the post-revolution years has been killed, reported the morning daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" Wednesday.

Seifollah Soleyman-Pour, born in Iran, was killed by unidentified gunmen while walking in a Sulaimaniya street, a Kurdish populated city in Northern Iraq. He was being accompanied by an agent of the Iraqi regime, the paper said without specifying time of the murder.

Soleyman-Pour, was engaged in a series of espionage and sabotage activities against Iran. He later fled to Iraq and continued his operations against Iran in collaboration with Iraq's security service, said the paper.

According to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Soleyman-Pour was behind several bomb explosions including a bomb explosion at Tehran's Friday Prayer congregations, in Railway Square and Naser Khosrow Avenue, southern Tehran.

Pakistan

Sharif Hails Afghanistan, Discusses Economy

BK0505192292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1434 GMT 5 May 92

[Address to nation by Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on 5 May; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God that the Afghan holy war has met with success. An Islamic government of the mojahedin has been established in Afghanistan and peace is gradually returning there. The Afghans have achieved this success after great sacrifices. And this success has brought great respect for them. Today, the successful holy war of Afghanistan points out how the small nations defend their independence and sovereignty; how to deal with the forces of oppression; and how righteousness, truthfulness, and steadfastness meet with success. On the occasion of the success of the Afghan holy war, I salute all the Afghan martyrs (?and leaders) whose blood has helped bring spring to Afghanistan. I pay my tribute to those Afghan freedom fighters who were physically disabled for the sake of the supremacy of Islam. The disability of the holy warriors are the signs of their heroism, and the bravery of the holy warriors has always been the distinction of the history of Islam. I also want to pay tribute to the patience and courage of the relatives of the holy warriors, who have become widows and orphans, lost their near and dear ones or saw them being crippled but did not complain. They endured all these pains and anguish with courage and boldness. I pray to God that He may bless them with the best rewards for their sufferings and sacrifices. I am also thankful to those Afghan refugees who cooperated with us and displayed patience and courage during their stay for about 10-12 years. I pray to God for their happy life when they return to their homeland.

The government and the people of Pakistan consistently extended moral, political, and practical assistance to their Afghan brethren during the entire period of the Afghan jehad only because we thought it was a war to defend Pakistan, which was being fought just across our border in Afghanistan. Had the independence and sovereign status of Afghanistan not been restored, then

sooner or later the independence and sovereignty of Pakistan would also have been threatened. Therefore, while on the one hand the government of Pakistan courageously fought the war for the defense of Afghanistan on all fronts of diplomatic, political, and moral support [as heard], on the other hand numerous Pakistani citizens actively joined the Afghan holy war. Today, many Pakistani martyrs are buried on Afghan soil. The tombs of these Pakistani martyrs in Afgahnistan will always remind Afghans that their Pakistani brethren also sacrificed their lives to help them achieve freedom.

My dear countrymen, we have in front of us the fruits of the bold, principled stand taken by Martyr General Ziaul Haq and his colleagues in support of Afghanistan some 13 years ago. Undoubtedly, Gen. Ziaul Haq and his colleagues were the heroes of the Afghan holy war who encouraged and supported the Afghans. May God grant them exalted positions. During my visit to Kabul, I have myself witnessed the fire of love and warmth that has been lighted in the hearts of the Afghan brethren by Pakistan's continued support to them, and for that, I thank God that he made us successful in the eyes of our Afghan brethren. The glorious role played by Pakistan in the Afghan holy war has been recognized not only by the Afghans, but also by the entire world. I here recall the comments of a Polish leader. When asked why the Polish people could not wage a successful resistance like that of the Afghans, even though they expressed their desire to emerge from the Soviet military grip on more than one occasion, the leader answered: There was not a country like Pakistan on our border. I am very grateful to Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for the guidance he provided us at every stage of the process of bringing the Afghan holy war to a successful conclusion. I drew enormous support and strength from his experience, thoughts, and foresight. In this context, I also pay tribute to the role played by prominent religious scholars and leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan, especially to late Mowlana 'Abdol Haq of Akora Khattak. The services of his son, who emulated his father, also deserve our praise.

Only on the second day after the formation of the mojahedin government, I offered thanksgiving prayers in Kabul amid the roars of the slogans of God is great. What a moment and what a scene it was! O Kashmiri people! I missed you a lot there. You have suffered many atrocities, endured much tyranny, made many sacrifices, and paid a very heavy price for keeping the flag of Pakistan aloft; your cries are roaring in the ears of every Pakistani and all humanity is hearing them. I am confident that, as in Afghanistan, God will definitely reward us with the honor of offering our thanksgiving prayers in Kashmir as well. The days of the end of the Kashmiri people's difficulties are drawing closer. I pray to God for the success of your struggle.

My dear countrymen, now Afghanistan is free. The mojahedin have their own government there. The Afghan leaders, therefore, will have to make the efforts themselves to strengthen their mutual unity. Our blessings are with them.

After the Afghanistan problem, I would like to tell you a few things about the country's economic situation. I am not used to hiding the facts by mincing words. If I cannot tell you the truth, then what service would I render to you? Improvement in the economic situation tops my list of priorities, and most of my efforts as prime minister are devoted to solving this problem. I am doing everything possible to lessen the problems of the countrymen to make their life easy. While keeping you informed of the country's economic situation, I will not try to frighten you by saying that conditions are out of my control and the situation is very bad, nor would I like to give you false assurances that everything is okay, everything is all right. For a long time now, the Pakistani government has been spending much more than its revenue and has been constantly borrowing from within and outside the country, wherever possible, to meet the budgetary deficit. Therefore, we have amassed so much debt burden that the mere payment of interest on these loans has become the greatest obstacle to keeping the budget balanced. The current situation is that the government revenue generated by taxes is gradually becoming inadequate to meet defense expenses and loan repayments. Our revenue amounts to 207 billion rupees, of which 57 billion rupees is paid to the provinces, which leaves only 150 billion rupees for the federal government. (?About) 89 billion rupees is spent on debt servicing and 76 billion rupees is spent on defense. Thus, the sum of our debt servicing and defense expenditure alone takes all our revenue, forcing the country to take more loans to run other affairs of the country. One easy way out would have been for me to adopt the same path as the previous governments, overlooking the solution to the problems. That path would have been to take more loans and complete my term of office by hook or by crook. But, it would be wrong to think on my part that, instead of solving the problems that I have inherited because of the wrong policies of the previous governments, I should increase these problems and leave them to be tackled by the governments that will come after me. The problem is not the concern of the governments alone, but of the entire nation. The burden of debt is borne not by the government alone, but by the entire nation. I do not want to see our future generations more indebted than we are now. Because, God forbid, if that happens, it will not lead us to a bright future. The people of my generation and I have dreamed of giving Pakistan a bright future, and I wish to make that dream come true; and I have been working hard to achieve this goal. Some of my kind compatriots consider the country's economic problem as my own personal problem and instead of fulfilling their national duty of assisting me to solve this problem, they are trying to make the people believe that Nawaz Sharif has created a program to sell all the factories and banks of the country, but has not been able to repay the debts.

So many factories have been sold; two banks have also been sold. After all, how much of the loan has been repaid? I would like to tell you: Surely one of the objectives of privatizing factories and banks is not to take new loans to repay old debts, but to generate new resources to meet the budget imbalance created by the expense of debt servicing and the dangerous deficit level through the privatization policy to reduce the budget deficit. But what should be remembered is that even by selling all the factories and banks, all our loans cannot be repaid. Please listen. Our country has a debt burden of about 900 billion rupees. We have earned about 10 billion rupees by privatizing 50 industries so far. A further amount of 15 billion rupees can be expected. Even if we wish to sell major industries like Pakistan Steel Mills, telecommunications, et cetera, we cannot expect to earn more than about 200 billion rupees. Therefore, the total expected income from the privatization plan will not be more than 250 billion rupees, whereas the total amount of debt is about 900 billion rupees.

Another objective of the privatization policy is to withdraw government investment from business and industry and invest in developmental programs where we have no funds to spare. If we do not construct roads, increase the power production, and supply water, then how can we implement future development programs?

The situation now is that we must take more loans to repay debts. In such a situation, where can we get funds to run the country's affairs and its developmental programs? A sum of nearly 80 billion rupees is needed for developmental programs annually. Now the question is: Where do we get this money if we do not borrow? To overcome this situation, it was planned to withdraw the government funds that have been invested in business and industry to be used for future developmental programs. And if they are running at a loss now, they might earn a profit for the government in the future, God willing. The government used to spend funds from its treasury to meet the losses.

My countrymen, although the steps I took to improve the deteriorating economic situation of the country failed to satisfy me, it does not mean that these steps have had no effect on the national economy. The value of the currency of a country reflects the country's economic situation. If we look from this viewpoint, we can see signs of improvement in the national economy. Until a few months ago, it was possible to get 70 Indian rupees in exchange for 100 Pakistani rupees. This has been the case not only recently, but also for years. Now 70 Pakistani rupees fetch 100 Indian rupees. Doesn't this signify an improvement in the national economy? World bodies such as the World Bank and the IMF for years have expressed concern over Pakistan's miserable economic condition and tried to avoid any loans to this country. Now these organizations commend Pakistan's economic progress and seem ready to provide loans. This is also a sign of improvement.

But I would like to say that Pakistan's economy has not improved to a satisfactory level, because the national economy has not turned totally in the right direction. The deficit is still there. And in the event of a continued deficit, a step will not be taken forward, but rather backward. That is why I am saying that instead of moving toward the 21st century, we are going back to the 19th century. I have arrested this movement backward. God knows, what would have happened if no decisions had been made to improve the economy after we assumed power? The difficult time lies ahead. Whoever assumes my position should say so. If he does not, he is deceiving the nation.

We nust do a lot more and Nawaz Sharif cannot do it alone. Singlehandedly, he cannot provide you with morsels of gold. The entire nation should take part in this struggle, be steadfast in its goal, and make sacrifices. Only then, God willing, will good times dawn. If the current situation persists, inflation will increase, prices will rise, and life will become harder and harder. Compared to world standards, the standard of health and medical facilities in our country is quite low. Unemployment is increasing day by day. The rate of economic growth is far behind the increase in population. Do we want to step into the 21st century with all these deplorable conditions? My desire is that when we enter the 21st century, Pakistan will have emerged from the category of the low-income countries. It should be a country exporting food grains instead of importing them. The nation will have to work with patience, courage, and perseverance to come out of the vortex of economic difficulties. We should remember that if we do not meet all this with perseverance and fortitude today, there will be no way out other than drowning and perishing in this whirlpool of economic difficulties. God willing, within eight or 10 years, the very structure of Pakistan will undergo a change. The existing conditions will not prevail and an era of prosperity will be ushered in.

The basic principle underlying this charter [preceding word in English] of self-reliance will be the protection of poor people. The thrust will be to expand the purview of taxes and increase revenue instead of increasing the burden of tax. There are people who earn a great deal but do not pay even a single penny in tax. According to their incomes, tax will be collected from them. Tax will be imposed on those who evade tax under various pretexts. Tax is a national trust. I will not allow anybody to embezzle this national trust. A taxable person will have to pay tax. One has to care not only for this world, but for the hereafter as well. God willing, steps will be taken to divert resources to the poor people of this country from the privileged and well-to-do people. These poor people are the builders of Pakistan. I will continue to grant their rights.

Dear countrymen, like economic woes, the law and order situation also is a serious problem. Although the law and order situation during my tenure is said to be better compared to what existed during previous regimes, and there are no incidents of murder in every nook and

corner and no day and night curfews, I am not too satisfied with the overall law and order situation despite all the signs of improvement. [Passage omitted]

My dear elders, brothers and sisters, I would like a pledge from all Pakistanis, especially the youth, that even at the cost of their lives they will protect every interest of Pakistan—God's gift that was passed on to us by our ancestors as a trust. We will not accept blame from the previous generation or the next generation that we did not fully safeguard this trust. Pakistan was created in the name of Islam. Therefore, only a good, strong, and morally sacred Pakistan can uphold the supremacy of Islam. Please swear in the name of our faith, God, and the honor of our mothers that you will extend every possible cooperation to me to make Pakistan a model of a true Islamic welfare and democratic nation as envisioned by our great leader Jinnah; will guide and assist me in fulfilling all the responsibilities which I just mentioned before you. The truth is that it will take some time to bring the country's situation on the right path according to my satisfaction. I know, the poor have suffered so long that they are expecting miracles from me to get rid of their difficulties. I pray for God's grace more than my own efforts. If he wills, miracles can take place. But, remember that a miracle can be brought about by the collective efforts of the entire nation. If I continue to enjoy the cooperation of the entire nation, God willing, you will see a great change within a few years. This is my pledge to you. Long live Pakistan!